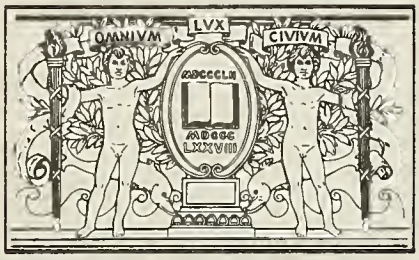
The GREAT FAMILIES of IRELAND



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The GREAT FAMILIES of IRELAND

Dedication

To the Great Irish Families in North America who made this publication possible.

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SURNAME MAP OF IRELAND

Gaelic Septs

Septs of Norman Ancestry

The 14 "Tribes of Galway" = Athye, Blakee, Bodkins, Brownes, D'Arcys, Deanes, ffonts, ffrenche, Joyces, Kirwans, Lynches, Martins, Morrises, Skerrets

Important Notes and Instructions

In this, the first edition of *The Great Families of Ireland,* is represented a compilation of Irish family histories. Information has been taken from works in the 19th century and much earlier, including the *Annals of the Four Masters* (1616 A.D.). Including books and publications preserved in the Irish Archives, contributions from our members and readers have been substantial.

Conceived primarily as a genealogical aid, information contained herein should prove of interest to the Irish community at large.

Being the first edition, there will doubtlessly be some omissions or printers errors. We would appreciate any corrections or updates you could bring to our attention. We are always interested in additional sources or family histories not yet included in the Irish Archives.

The current volume focuses primarily on the country of Ireland itself. A more extensive publication on sources and history of Irish families in America, Europe, etc., will be the subject of another volume at a later date.

Information on some surnames remains sparse due to lack of available sources or time and monetary limitations. We are actively engaging in further research to remedy this situation.

The Foundation has produced the histories of 15 Irish family surnames, each as an individual book. Our goal is to publish the history of each of the great families of Ireland. This book represents a brief summary of the records contained in the Archives.

Some material within has been taken from legend or sources without sure documentation. We encourage the reader to research on his own and improve his understanding of the history of the families of Ireland.

1. The Mac, O', Fitz & Kil prefixes found in so many Irish names are worthy of note. Quite simply and briefly put, they have come to stand for "descendant of" or "follower of."

Originally the O' stood for grandson of, and the Mac stood for son of. Hence, MacDonald would mean "son of Donald." O'Kelly would mean "grandson of Kelly" (or grandsons of Cealleach in an earlier spelling).

In more general terms the O' and Mac have come to mean "descendant of." It should be noted that Mac and Mc are one in the same. They have been used interchangeably and no distinction can be made between the two forms in determining origins.

Furthermore, these prefixes have been dropped or added at will to Irish surnames. Thus, a father may be named O'Sullivan and his son Sullivan or vice-versa. (Irish families were at times forced to drop the O' or Mac by the authorities who saw these distinctive prefixes as a source of Gaelic pride!)

Other peculiarities include the tendency to accent the "c" in Mac, so that *MacAuley* might become *MacCauley* (or *Cauley* if the prefix were then dropped). The "c" has been known to transform itself into a "g" as well, using the above name, for example, *MacCauley* would become *MacGauley.*

Another common prefix is Gil or Kil, which along with the prefix Mul, likely stands for servant of, or follower of. Hence, Gilchrist would mean servant of Christ, Kilbride would be follower of St. Bridget. Mulrennan would stem from follower of St. Brennon, etc. These 3 prefixes stem from the words giolla and maol and usually carry a religious connation concerning devotion to a particular saint.

The 'Fitz' prefix found before so many Irish names is of Norman origin (1169 A.D. or later), and denotes descent as well. In the case of Fitzpatrick, however, we have the name of an older Irish family who made use of the Norman prefix.

2. Other spellings of Your Family Name. Your family name has doubtlessly changed its spelling over the last several hundred years. What originally began as one surname, can now be spelled several hundred different ways. In doing research be sure to keep your eyes open for similar sounding variants of your name. An "i" instead of an "e" or an "a" in place of an "o" is such a common occurrence that it can be ignored at times.

Brothers in the same family have been know to spell their name differently. For example, from an original spelling of *O'Connor,* the name can be simultaneously found as *Connor, O'Conner,* and *O'Coner,* all within the same generation!

It may be wise to concentrate on the sound of the name, as opposed to a precise spelling if you are having trouble locating your surname.

Not all families have changed their names as in the example cited above, but it could be a useful avenue to pursue in your research.

One final note on surname variations. The rarer or less popular names often changed into similar sounding more popular names, both in Ireland and abroad. Also, a name such as *Quinlan* could be shortened to *Quin,* as a matter of convenience. Due to the influence of Great Britain, many Irish names were changed into English forms as well. For example:

Translation of Irish Surnames

IRISH NAME CHANGES (Per Matheson)

Anglicized Irish Surname	Translated From	Into the English Form
Heany, Henehan, Henekan, McEneany	Ean (a bird)	Bird
Easping, Aspig	Easbog (a bishop)	Bishop
Duff	Dubh (black)	Black
McCullagh	Collach (a boar)	Boar
Sruffaun	Sruthan (a streamlet)	Bywater
Aglish	Eaglais (a church)	Church
Bachal	Bachal (a crozier)	Crozier
McScollog	Scolog (a petty farmer)	Farmer
Shanaghy, Shanahan, Shinnock, Shonogh, Shunagh, Shinnagh	Sionnach (a fox)	Fox
Seery, Seerey	Saor (free)	Freeman
O'Dea	Ua (descendant) Dia (God)	Godwin
Colreavy, Culreavy	Riabhach (gray)	Gray
Houneen, Huneen, Oonin	Vaine (green)	Green
McClave	Lamh (a hand)	Hand
Quillan	Cuileann (holly)	Holly
Feighery, Feighney, Feghany, Fehoney	Fiadhaighe (a huntsman)	Hunt
Commane	Coman (a hurling stick)	Hurley
Breheny, Brehony	Breathamh (a judge)	Judge
Mac-an-Ree, McAree, Muckaree	Righ (a king)	King
Cloughry	Cloch (stone) Righ (king)	Kingston
Beg, Beggan	Beag (little)	Little
Fodha	Fada (long)	Long
Darragh, McDara	Dair (an oak)	Oaks
Quirk	Coirce (oats)	Oats
Conheeny, Cunneen, Kinneen	Coinin (a rabbit)	Rabbit
Rostig	Roisteach (a roach)	Roche
Carrick	Carraicc (a rock)	Rock
Gearn, Gearns	Gear (sharp)	Sharpe
McGirr	Gor (short)	Short
Sheedy	Sioda (Silk)	Silk
Goan, Gow, Gowan, McGowan, O'Gowan	Gobha (a smith)	Smith
Drinan	Droigheann (black thorn)	Thornton
Brannagh, Brannach	Breathnach (a Welsh man)	Walsh
Toorish, Tourisk, Turish, Uiske	Uisge (water)	Waters
Corra	Cora (a weir)	Weir
Banane, Baun, Bawn	Ban (white)	White
Canavan	Ceann (a head) Ban (white)	Whitehead

3. The Location of Your Family Name in Ireland. As a rule, Irish families have remained on or near their hereditary lands for centuries. Apart from the large cities such as Dublin, which have attracted individuals throughout Ireland, the population has remained relatively intransient.

As a result of this stability, records such as the 1890s birth index cited throughout this book are a good source for establishing the main county of location for your Irish surname. If the O'Donoghues were mainly located in County Cork and Kerry in 1890, then they would most likely have been there in 1790.

A full surname listing of the 1890s birth index can be found in the Foundation publication, entitled *The Complete Book for Tracing Your Irish Ancestors.* The second edition of this work also includes 32 full size county maps, with thousands of indexed placenames.

During periods of great upheaval or transplantation, the leaders of the sept or clan might have been killed or forcibly removed to other areas. In the vast majority of these instances, the bulk of the family remained near their traditional lands, although often powerless.

4. Coat of Arms. The arms displayed in this book are sketches made by our artists, representing the officially recognized drawings of Irish Coat of Arms. The mere fact that your name is the name of the coat of Arms, as cited, is no proof that this is *your* coat of arms. This can only be officially established through a valid pedigree, tracing your direct lineage.

5 Sources for further research

Sources are cited within this book, as well as many others you may wish to consult regarding Irish history, may prove difficult to locate.

Repositories in Ireland, of course, are the most likely places to find such works. The National Library in Dublin, Ireland, houses thousands of volumes.

The genealogical office in Dublin Castle, Dublin, and The Ulster Historical Foundation in Belfast, Northern Ireland, are excellent repositories as well. Once you have established the county of interest in Ireland, many local histories, etc. . . .can be found in the libraries within that county.

Libraries in America that have fairly substantial collections of Irish works include:

1. The Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois.
2. The Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City, Utah.
3. The New York Public Library, New York City.
4. The St. Louis Public Library, St. Louis, Missouri.
5. The Fort Wayne Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
6. The Fort Worth Public Library, Fort Worth, Texas.

Another method of locating theses sources would be to contact a rare or out of print book dealer. For more popular books you may have to wait quite a long time before a book becomes available for purchase. These book dealers are advertised in most phone directories.

The National Archives and Records Service in Washington, D.C., can be of service. In the Library of Congress, local history and genealogy publications are available for research, as well.

The books we recommend for general surname and family history research are as follows:

1. **Irish Families.** Edward MacLysaght, New York, 1972. The best book available on Irish family histories, including extensive reference sources.
2. **Irish & Scotch Ancestral Research.** Fally, 1962. Vol. II contains sources.
3. **The Complete Book for 'Tracing Your Irish Ancestors.'** O'Laughlin, Kansas City, Mo.
4. **Sloinnte Gaedheal is Gall:** Irish Names and Surnames. Patrick Woulfe. Dublin, 1923.

Special Notes

Due to our methods of production, several accommodations have been made in preparing this manuscript. The Gaelic accent marks have been omitted on the spelling of the names. Sources cited earlier will provide a more precise spelling, including the accents (most notably the works of MacLysaught).

Space has been left on many pages for information yet to be compiled, to be filled out in a future edition, or for additions and notes of your own.

Many families have enough information available to fill an entire volume. For these families we have made a brief summary and included further sources to consult. We have prepared the family histories of 15 of these families in separate works unto themselves (i.e. O'Donaghue, O'Sullivan, Murphy, Kelly, O'Reilly, O'Loughlin, McGuinness, O'Rourke, O'Dougherty, etc. . . .)

The main family names selected to appear in this volume represent: (a) those names with recognized coats-of-arms, and (b) those names which have been most often requested by our subscribers. Many more great families of Ireland remain to be covered, but the selection herein represents the most logical starting point.

The text of this book has been prepared from information contained in the Foundation Archives and is written as an aid to the researcher of historian. Our aim was to present data in a "raw facts" manner — leaving the reader to his own conclusions, and future efforts.

As a general guideline to our readers we will list names of foreign origin as cited by Matheson (1909). It should be remembered that some old Irish families have adopted these surnames as well, due to similarity, anglicization, or pressure from the authorities.

50 TOP SURNAMES OF SCOTLAND

Cameron	Smith
Watson	M'Donald
Walker	Brown
Taylor	Thomson
M'Leod	Robertson
Ferguson	Stewart
Duncan	Campbell
Gray	Wilson
Davidson	Anderson
Hunter	Scott
Hamilton	Miller
Kerr	McKenzie
Grant	Reid
M'Intosh	Ross
Graham	M'Kay
White	Johnston
Allan	Murray
Simpson	Clark
M'Gregor	Paterson
Munro	Young
Sinclair	Fraser
Bell	M'Lean
Martin	Henderson
Russell	Mitchell
Gordon	Morrison

50 TOP SURNAMES OF ENGLAND

Harris	Smith
Clark	Jones
Cooper	Williams
Harrison	Taylor
Ward	Davies
Martin	Brown
Davis	Thomas
Baker	Evans
Morris	Roberts
James	Johnson
King	Wilson
Morgan	Robinson
Allen	Wright
Moore	Wood
Parker	Thompson
Clarke	Hall
Cook	Green
Price	Walker
Phillips	Hughes
Shaw	Edwards
Bennett	Lewis
Lee	White
Watson	Turner
Griffiths	Jackson
Carter	Hill

THE FIRST MAN TO BEAR THE NAME IN IRELAND

Name	Taken from the following individual
McCann (Lords of Clan Brassell)	Cana (son of Mahon)
McCarthys	Cartagh (King of Desmond)
McGreaghtys	Cahir (King of Connaught)
McGuires	Uidhir (Lord of Fernagh)
McKenna	Cionaith (Chieftain)
McNamaras	Domhnal McConmara (Chief of Magnadhair)
McSweeneys	Suibne Mean (Monarch of Ireland)
O'Beirnes	Beirn (of the race of O'Conor Magh Naoi)
O'Boyle	Braoighill or Buidhill (Chief of Boylagh)
O'Cahil	Cathal (Brother of Conor Na Luinge Cuaithle)
O'Carry	Cathail (son of Muiredaih Muilleathan)
O'Cinnsellagh	Enna Cinseallagh (son of Dermot)
O'Concanons	Cucenaid (of the race of McDermott)
O'Connell (Prince of Moylurg)	Conghaile (Chief of Magh Og' Coinchinn)
O'Connor Kerry	Mathgamhan O'Conchobhar (King of Kerry or Carraighe)
O'Crowley	Dermot Cruath Locha
O'Dea	O'Deadhaigh
O'Donoghoes	Donnchada
O'Donavan	Donavan
O'Driscoll	Eidersceoil (Chief of Bearra)
O'Flagherty	Flaithbheartaigh
O'Gallagher	Gallchobar
O'Gara	Ghadhra (Chief of Coolavin and Sliabh Lugha)
O'Gorman	Gormain
O'Hanlon	Hanluan (Chief of Hy Rieth Thire)
O'Hanragh	Anrachana
O'Hanratty	Ionrachtagh
O'Hart	O'Conor Airt
O'Hiffernan	Ifearnan
O'Hennessy	Aengus
O'Heyne	Guaire Aidhne (King of Connaught)
O'Hickey	Iocaigh
O'Houlaghan	Hullachain

Name	Taken from the following individual
O'Higgin	Uigin
O'Kearney	Catharnaigh
O'Keeffe	Caoimh
O'Kennedy	Cinneidigh (son of Donnchuan)
O'Keevan	Caomhan
O'Kelly	Ceallaigh
O'Kinealy	Cinfhaeladh
O'Loughlin	Lochlain O'Conor (of Corcumroe)
O'Madden	Madaghan (Chief of Siol Anmchadha)
O'Mahony	Mathghamna
O'Malley	Manannans
O'Mallone	Maoileoin (nephew of Roderick O'Conor)
O'Meagher	Meachar (Chieftain of Kianachta)
O'Meara	Mearadhaigh
O'Meighan	Miadhachain
O'Melaghlin	Maelseachlainn (King of Meath)
O'Moledy	Maolanedy (brother of Fearghail)
O'Moran	Murchadhain
O'More	Mordha (descendant of Laoiseach Kean More)
O'Mollowney	O'Quin, O'Dea, O'Grady, McEneiry, O'Slattery, O'Biren (same family as)
O'Mulloy	Maolmhuaidh (a Chief)
O'Mulrooney	Maoilruanaidh Mullethan (King of Connaught)
O'Mulvihill	Maoilmhichil (Chief of Corcaseashuail)
O'Murphy	Feidhlim (son of Enna Kinsillagh)
O'Neills	Niell Glenndubh (Monarch of Ireland)
O'Neylan	Race of McGuire from Nillian
O'Nowlan	Nuallain (Chief of the Clanna Rory)
O'Reilly	Raghallaigh (Prince of Breifne)
O'Rorke	Art O'Rorke (King of Connaught)
O'Shaughnessy	Seachnasach (Chief)
O'Shee	Seagha (Chieftain)
O'Sheill	Siaghail
O'Sullivan	Suilleabhain
O'Toole	Tuathal (King of Leinster)

Foreign Names in Ireland

Danish (Viking) names found in Ireland

The Danes (Ostmen, Vikings, Lochlainders) maintained colonies for over 300 years in Ireland. Particularly concentrated in Dublin and Meath (Fingall predominately), much Danish blood has mixed with the old Milesian families. Their invasions began in the 8th century A.D.

Betagh
Coppinger
Dowdall
Drumgoole
Gould
Harold
Palmer
Plunket
Skiddy
Sweetman (Swedeman)
Trant
Ost

Anglo-Norman names found in Ireland

The circumstances connected with the Anglo-Norman invasion need not be referred to here. It suffices to say that through it the second great graft on our Celtic stock took place, many of our present surnames, notwithstanding the changes in form and spelling which time has wrought in them, being traceable to an Anglo-Norman source. As examples the following may be given:

Barry
Bellew
Bermingham
Burke
Carew
Clare
Cogan
Dalton
Darcy
De Courcey
Delamere
Dillon
FitzEustace (Eustace)
Fitzgerald
Fitzhenry
Fitzmaurice
Fitzsimons
Fitzstephen
Gernon
Grace
Hussey
Keating
Lacy
Le Poer
Marshall
Montmorency
Mortimer
Nangle
Nugent
Petit
Prendergast
Purcell
Roche
Staunton
Taaffe
Talbot
Tuite
Tyrrell
Verdon
Vesey

Welsh names found in Ireland

Welsh immigrants also found their way into Ireland. The name "Walsh" -- Irish, Brannagh or Breathnach, a Briton or Welshman--occurs in early times in the counties of Cork, Dublin, Kerry, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, and Wicklow; and at the present day the name is largely represented in nearly every county in Ireland, especially in Cork, Mayo, Waterford, Galway, Dublin, and Wexford, According to some ancient authorities, Welshmen of the following names settled in Ireland after the English Invasion:

Howell
Lawless
Lillis
Lynagh
Lynott
Merrick
Hore
Cod
Stafford
Whitty
Rossiter
Sinnott
Stephen
Quiney
Walsh

Huguenot names found in Ireland

Representatives of other races have from time to time settled in this country; prominent amongst these may be mentioned the French and Flemish Huguenots. The Irish Parliament in 1674 passed an Act granting letters of naturalization to the refugees. The Duke of Ormonde, then Viceroy, patronized them, and through his instrumentality, colonies of them were founded at Dublin, Kilkenny, Portarlington, Waterford, Cork, and Lisburn. The following are given as examples:

Barre'
Blacquiere
Boileau
Chaigneau
Du Bedat
Champion
Chenevix
Corcellis
Crommelin
Delacherois
Drelincourt
Dubourdieu
Du Cros
Fleury
Gaussen
Logier
Guerin
Hazard
(Hassard)
La Touche
Le Fevre
Lefroy
Lefanu
Maturin
Perrin
Saurin
Trench
Des Vignolles

Scottish names found in Ireland

From an early period there were migrations of Scotch from Scotland to Ireland where they settled in Ulster, but the formal Plantation of Ulster took place in the 17th century. The majority of these settlers were Scotch. The following are given as examples:

Stewart
Campbell
Scott
Miller
McKenzie
Ross
McKay
Paterson
Fraser
Morrison
Cameron
McIntosh
McGregor
Kerr
Graham
Sinclair
Gordon

German Palatinate names found in Ireland

In the 18th century there was a German migration into Ireland from the Palatinate of the Rhine. In 1709 a fleet was sent to Rotterdam by Queen Anne, which brought over about 7,000 of these refugees to England. About 3,000 were sent to North America, where they settled in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. The remainder, except a few families which remained in England, came over to Ireland, and settled principally in the County of Limerick. They were allowed eight acres of land for each man, woman, and child, at 5s. an acre, and the Government engaged to pay their rent for twenty years. They were an industrious and frugal race, but their numbers were subsequently largely reduced by emigration to America, and at the present day but few, comparatively remain.

Baker
Bovanizer
Bowen
Doube
Delmege
Gilliard
Latchford
Ligier
Millar
Lodwig
Modlar
Pyper
Reynard
Ruttle
Shire
Stark
Switzer
Teskey
Neazor
Heavenor
Smyth

English names found in Ireland

Large numbers of English came to Ireland from the 12th to the 18th century, and from these sources the great bulk of the English names now found in Ireland are derived. These names are very numerous, though in many cases, as compared with the old Celtic names, they represent but a small number of persons.

The following are a few specimens of English names numerously represented:

Adams
Andrews
Arnold
Ashe
Atkinson
Barker
Barr
Barton
Bates
Bennett
Berry
Bingham
Bolton
Bradshaw
Brooks
Canning
Carlisle
Carter
Christy
Cooper
Cox
Crowe
Downes
Edwards
English
Field
Fisher
Freeman
Goodwin
Hall
Harper
Harris
Harrison
Hawthorne
Henry
Hewitt
Hill
Holmes
Hopkins
Hunt
Hunter
Jackson
Jenkins
Johnson
Johnston
Kidd
King
Lamb
Lane
Little
Long
Mitchell
Morton
Nash
Osborne
Pearson
Richardson
Roberts
Robinson
Salmon
Shaw
Short
Simpson
Small
Somers
Swan
Taylor
Thornton
Turner
Walker
Wall
Waters
Watson
Webb
Webster
West
White
Woods
Wright

Cornish names found in Ireland

Some Cornish or Briton names are also found in Ireland, such as:

Jagoe
Lanyon
Pascoe
Pender
Pendred
Penrose
Tredennick
Trevelyan
Tresilian
Vivian

Jewish names found in Ireland

The last colony to which attention need be called is that resulting from the recent Jewish immigration. For many years Jews have been resident in Dublin and other chief cities in Ireland, but during the decade 1881-1890, their numbers were largely increased by the arrival of Russian and Polish Jews. Most of these have settled in Dublin, where, on the south side of the city, they have formed a Jewish Quarter, and opened several Synagogues. The following are examples of the names of the Jewish Settlers:

Coplan
Fridberg
Greenberg
Hesselberg
Maisell
Matufsky
Rabinovitch
Rossin
Statzumsky
Stuppel
Wachman
Wedeclefsky
Weiner
Winstock

Key to reading this volume

As outlined on the accompanying illustration, the following notes will help you in understanding the text of the work.

Ancient Spelling: gives an earlier form of the name which may help you when researching older records and documents. It should be noted that several other 'ancient' spellings may exist. Some of these spellings are based upon modern 'Irish' forms of the name, as well.

Variants: lists other forms of the name, which have been anglicized or translated in the past, into these spellings. A variant spelling may appear under several different surname headings. This is particularly true in the case of relatively rare surnames which have been changed into more popular ones, due to a similarity in sound. In most instances, however, the variant spellings represent different spellings of the same name.

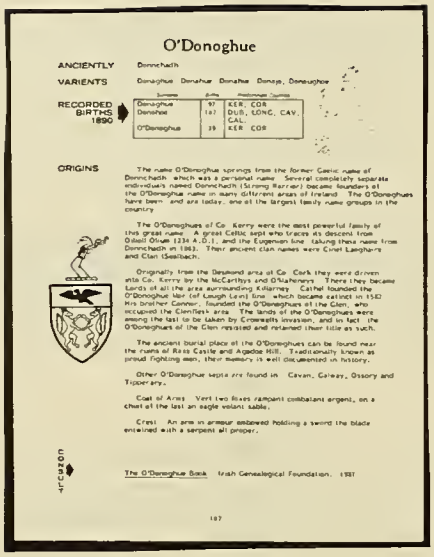
1890 Birth Index: gives the predominant location of the name in 1890, as evidenced by number of births. These locations should, overall, represent the location of the name for many years prior to 1890.

Origins: A very brief summary of the name as found in older records. As cited, the information normally pertains to the most prominent families of the name. Information as listed here is meant to give you a reference point for family research in Ireland. Some references are taken from O'Dugan, O'Heerin and Woolfe, as well as the remaining 'annals' of Irish history. Most of these references are speaking of several centuries past.

Care should be taken with regard to geopgraphic location. It should be remembered that several families which bear the same surname are completely unrelated (i.e. Sullivan, Kelly, Murphy, Donaghue). Before making an intelligent estimate of the lands your ancestors walked, you must be aware of the independent septs of the name which existed.

Consult: lists, as available, sources for further research on the name. Many of these works are quite rare and difficult to obtain. The reader may wish to enter references of his own. The foundation will include additional reference sources, when brought to our attention.

Sources listed as "Public Records Office, Dublin, Ireland," and "Estate papers in the National Library, Dublin, Ireland." The two above references simply mean that at least one family of the name is documented in these repositories. Certain sources are coded by letter, enclosed in parenthesis, i.e....(o), (k), etc..... The key to these abbreviations is to be found and interpreted as follows:



O'Donoghue

ANCIENTLY Donnchadh

VARIENTS Donaghue Donahue Donahue Donaja, Donaughoe

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Donaghue	97	KER, COR
Donahoe	167	DUB, LONG, CAV, CAL.
O'Donoghue	39	KER COR

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

ORIGINS

The name O'Donoghue springs from the former Gaelic name of Donnchadh which was a personal name. Several completely separate individuals named Donnchadh (Strong Warrior) became founders of the O'Donoghue name in many different areas of Ireland. The O'Donoghues have been and are today, one of the largest family name groups in the country.

The O'Donoghues of Co. Kerry were the most powerful family of this great name. A great Celtic sept who traces its descent from Odell Olum (234 A.D.), and the Eugenian line (taking there name from Donnchadh in 1063). Their ancient clan names were Cinel Laeghaire and Clan Sealbach.

Originally from the Desmond area of Co. Cork they were driven into Co. Kerry by the McCarthys and O'Mahoneys. There they became Lords of all the area surrounding Killarney. Cathel founded the O'Donoghue Mor (of Lough Lein) line, which became extinct in 1582. His brother Connor, founded the O'Donoghues of the Glen, who occupied the Clan Tiesh area. The lands of the O'Donoghues were among the last to be taken by Cromwells invasion, and in fact the O'Donoghues of the Glen repaired and retained their title as such.

The ancient burial place of the O'Donoghues can be found near the ruins of Ross Castle and Agadoe Hill. Traditionally known as proud fighting men, their memory is well documented in history.

Other O'Donoghue septs are found in Cavan, Galway, Ossory and Tipperary.

Coat of Arms: Vert two foxes rampant combatant argent, on a chief of the last an eagle volant sable.

Crest: An arm in armour embowed holding a sword the blade entwined with a serpent all proper.

ARCHIVE

The O'Donoghue Book. Irish Genealogical Foundation, 1981

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Surname Alphabetically arranged disregarding the O' or Mac prefix. Hence O'Reilly is listed under Reilly.

ANCIENTLY : Early Form of the Name

VARIENTS : Other Spellings

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890 — Surname | Births | Predominate Counties

Family Name taken from Birth Index

ORIGINS : Number of Births in 1890 — Counties of Birth

ANT = Antrim	KILO = Kildare	MUN = Munster
ARM = Armagh	KILK = Kilkenny	OFF = Offaly
CAR = Carlow	KIN = Kings	QUE = Queens
CAV = Cavan	LEIT = Leitrim	ROS = Roscommon
CLA = Clare	LEIX = Leix	SLI = Sligo
CON = Connaught	LIM = Limerick	TIP = Tipperary
COR = Cork	LONO = Londonderry	TYR = Tyrone
DON = Donegal	LONG = Longford	ULS = Ulster
DOW = Down	LOU = Louth	WAT = Waterford
DUB = Dublin	MAY = Mayo	WES = Westmeath
FER = Fermanagh	MEA = Meath	WEX = Wexford
GAL = Galway	MON = Monaghan	WIC = Wicklow
KER = Kerry		

Crest

Coat of Arms
Artists sketch of the officially recognized arms of Irish Families. Not necessarily your coat of arms, even if your name is identical to the officially recognized spelling.

Motto
The Family Motto or Slogan.

Oefinitions of colors used in the Coat of Arms.

Or = Yellow or Gold
Argent = White or Silver
Sable = Black
Azure = Blue
Gules = Red
Vert = Green
Purpure = Purple
Tenne or Tawny = Orange
Murray = Sanguine

Sources for further Research
Coded in parenthesis, i.e. (A) for known location of source.

Location Key

CONSULT

A = Ardagh and Clonmacnoise Antiquarian Society Journal.
B = Breifny Antiquarian Society Journal.
C = Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaelogical Society.
G = Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society.
K = Journal of the County Kildare Archaeological Socity.
L = Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society.
N = North Munster Antiquarian Society Journal.
O = Transactions of the Ossory Archaeological Society.
R = Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.
U = Ulster Journal of Archaeology.
W = Journal of the Waterford and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society.

Aherne

ANCIENTLY : OhEachtighearna, OhEachthigheirn

VARIANTS : O'Hagherin, Heffron, Haveran, O'Heerin, Hearne, Ahern, Ahearn.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Ahern (92)	112	COR, LIM.
Aherne (15)		
Ahearn (9)		
Hearne	11	WAT.
Heffron	20	MAY.

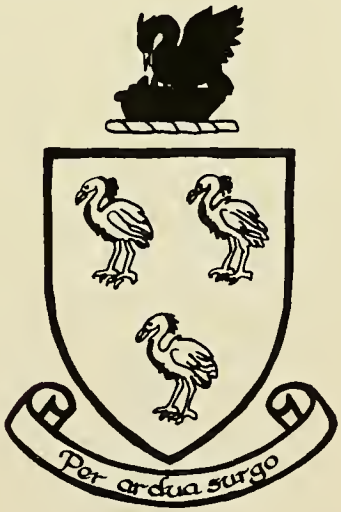
ORIGINS : The spelling as "Hearne" or "Hearn" is concentrated in County Waterford. Caution should be taken due to the fact that the name is: 1) Found in England as well and, 2) The name "O'hUidrin" (County Offaly) has also been anglicized to some of the same variant spellings.

Main areas of occupation: Originally occupied County Clare near the city of Limerick (Ui Cearnaigh). Later moved into Cork and Waterford.

Coat of Arms: Vert, three herons argent.

Crest: A pelican in her piety proper.

Motto: Per Ardua Surgo



CONSULT

A Pedigree on the Hearn Family. Correagh, Westmeath. (B.C.G.)

Alcock

ANCIENTLY : Of English Origins

VARIANTS : Alcocke

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Alcock	5	2-Leinster, 2-Munster, 1-Ulster.

ORIGINS : Very little information available. The name is not of Gaelic origin, coming from Britain or the continent. The name is not numerous in Ireland today, although several are to be found as students at Dublin University from the 17th century onwards.

Location: Waterford (late 1600's).

Irishmen of the name:

Henry Alcock - Member of the Irish House of Commons in 1797 (300 members).

Charles Alcocke - Names of persons in the Grants under the acts of settlement and explanation per O'Hart's, Irish Landed Gentry, when Cromwell came to Ireland.

CONSULT

Pedigree on the Alcock Family. Wilton, Co. Wexford. (Ir. B.)

Genealogical Division, Dublin Castle, Ireland.

Athy

ANCIENTLY : Ataoi

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*

ORIGINS : Originally settled in Athy, County Kildare (1300 A.D.), moving subsequently to Galway.

This family, of Norman descent, was one of the "14 Tribes of Galway." Less prominent than the other 13 tribes, the name Athy is few in number today.

Irishmen of the name:

William de Athy - Treasurer of Galway, 1388.

CONSULT

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

Mac Auley

ANCIENTLY : 1. MacAmhalghaidh (Co. Offaly & Westmeath)
2. MacAmhlaoiby (Co. Fermanagh)

VARIANTS : MacAwley, Macauley, MacGawley, Magawley.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McAuley (49) McCauley (30)	107	ANT, DON.

ORIGINS : These two completely seperate septs bear the same name, but are of no blood relation. The first sept were known as "Lords of McGawley's Country," and are described in the works of the Four Masters as "Chiefs of Calry." They were anciently descended from "Niall of the Nine Hostages," taking their name from Auley (a descendant of Niall). Dublin Castle contains specific pedigrees on this great family.

The second sept descended from the "MacGuire" family and occupied the barony of Clanawley in Fermanagh.

The Scottish settlers in Ulster also gave birth to the name of Macauley in Ireland.

Coat of Arms (MacAwley): Argent a lion rampant gules armed and langued azure in chief two dexter hands couped at the wrist of the second.

Crest (MacAwley): A demi-lion rampant gules.

CONSULT

Gleanings in Family History from the Antrim Coast. George Hill. (U) VIII. 1860.

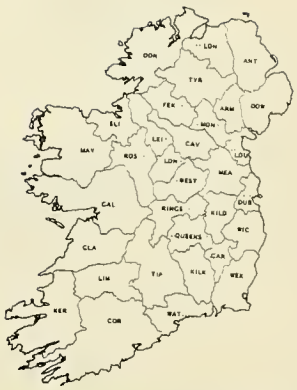
Mac Auliffe

ANCIENTLY : MacAmhlaoibh

VARIANTS : Ollife, MacAuley, Auliffe.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
MacAuliffe	40	CORK.



ORIGINS : Although Amhlaoibh was a common Norse (Viking) personal name, MacAmhlaoibh is a true Gaelic family name. Found primarily in county Cork and the province of Munster, Castle MacAuliffe is in Co. Cork, where the chief of the name resided in earlier days.

This family is a subsept of the McCarthys and their castle was near Newmarket in Cork. Their land was in the barony of Duhallow and known as "Glen Omra." This territory ran from the Alla River to the Co. Limerick border.

Coat of Arms: Argent three mermaids with combs and mirrors in fess azure between as many mullets of the last.

Crest: A boar's head couped or.

CONSULT

Barrett

ANCIENTLY : Baroid (Co. Cork)
Baireid (Co. Mayo & Galway)

VARIANTS : Barett, Barret, Barnett, Barratt, Bartnett.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Barrett	146	DUB, COR, KER, LIM, GAL, MAY.

ORIGINS : A common name in England as well as Ireland, the Barretts arrived in the 12th century during the Anglo-Norman invasions. The name originating from two completely distinct families: Barrat in Co. Cork, and Barret in the Co. Galway and Co. Mayo region, is still predominant in these areas.

The Cork Barrets occupied "Barrett Country" in the "Barony of Barrets." The Northern Mayo Barretts were "Lords of Tirawley," where the head of the family was "MacWattin." Also bearing the name of MacPadine in the 16th century, the pedigree of the family becomes unsure and confusing. This family remained a large property holder until the end of the 17th century and the Williamite confiscation.

Coat of Arms: (Of Barretts Country, Co. Cork)
Barry of ten per pale argent and gules counterchanged.

Crest: A demi-lion rampant sable ducally crowned per pale argent and gules.

CONSULT

Barry

ANCIENTLY : de Barra (Norman origin), O'Baire, O'Beargha.

VARIANTS : Barri, O'Beargha

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Barry	217	COR, LIM, WAT.

ORIGINS : 12th Century land grants to Philip de Barri in the baronies of Barrymore, Orrery, and Kinlea (Co. Cork) establish the Barrys in Ireland, following the Anglo-Norman invasions.

Two baronies in Co. Cork, Barrymore and Barryroe, are named after these Barry septs. A completely seperate Gaelic sept of O'Beargha (lords in the barony of Kenry, Co. Limerick), also exists, but distinction between these two families has become blurred.

Coat of Arms: Argent 3 bars gemels gules.

Etude sur l'histoire des Bary-Barry. Par Alfred de Bary. Vieux-Dieu-Les Anvers. 1927.

De l'origine des Barry d'Irlande. Par Alfred de Bary. Guebwiller. 1900.

The Last Earls of Barrymore. G.J. Robinson. London. 1894.

Memoirs of the Barry-Place Family. J. Barry Deane. (C) XXXIII. 1928.

Barrymore. Rev. E. Barry. (C) N.S. V, VI, VII, VIII. 1902.

CONSULT

O'Beirne

ANCIENTLY : O'Birn, O'Beirn.

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
O'Beirne	10	
Beirne	64	ROS, LEI.

ORIGINS : Not to be confused with O'Byrne. In earlier times, one sept is found in Co. Mayo, north of Ballinrobe. Another sept is found overthrowing the O'Monahans as chiefs of the Tir Briuin Na Sinna, in the 13th century, Co. Roscommon.

Location: The province of Connacht. Today found in Co. Leitrim and Roscommon.

Coat of Arms: Argent an orange tree eradicated and fructed proper, in base a lizard vert, in the dexter base point a saltire couped gules, on a chief azure the sun in his splendor or and a crescent of the first.

Crest: A dexter arm in armour embowed the hand grasping a sword all proper.

CONSULT

Blake

ANCIENTLY : Caddell, de Blaca.

VARIANTS : Blakes, Bleach.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Blake	58	COR, GAL, CLA, ANT, DUB.
Caddell	6	

ORIGINS : Descended from the sheriff of Connacht, Richard Caddell, in 1303, this family was amoung the 13 original Tribes of Galway. The names Caddell and Blake were used simultaneously up until the 17th century.

Great landowners of Connacht, their lands were located principally in Galway up until the 19th century. "Blakestown" in Co. Kildare was named after this family as well.

The Gaelic name of Glowick (O'Blathmhaic) has also been transformed into Blake at times, due to similar sound.

Location: Galway.

Coat of Arms: Argent a fret gules.

Crest: A leopard passant proper.

CONSULT

Pedigree of the Blake Family. Corbally, Galway. (B.C.G.)

Blake Family Records. Martin J. Blake. London. 1902-05.

Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

Bodkin

ANCIENTLY : Boidicin

VARIANTS : Fitzgerald, Bodekin, Boudakyn, Zorkin.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Fitzgerald	330	MUN, COR, LIM, KER, DUB.

ORIGINS : Another of the "14 tribes of Galway," descended from Maurice Fitzgerald. His grandson, Richard, possessed large tracts of land in the eastern section of Galway in the mid-13th century.

Moving strongly into the city of Galway in the 14th century, they remained one of the more prominent tribes until the coming of Cromwell.

CONSULT

O'Boland

ANCIENTLY : O'Beollain

VARIANTS : Bolan, Bowland, Bullion.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Boland	57	CLA, KIL, ROS.

ORIGINS : Seldom found with the O' prefix, there are two clearly distinct septs bearing this name. The Ui' Fiachrach branch, found in Doomaltan (barony of Tireragh) Co. Sligo (who may be related to the O'Bolands of Drumcliff, also of Co. Sligo), make up one sept. The Drumcliff branch were known as Erenaghs of the Church of St. Columban.

The sept from Thomand descended through Mahon, a brother or more distant relative of Brian Boru.

Modern day descendants reside in northern Connacht and East Clare. The village of Ballybolan, on Lough Derg, commerates the name of this family.

Location: 1) Co. Sligo, 2) Thomond, 3) Offaly (in earlier times.)

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion passant gules langued and armed azure, on a chief or an eagle displayed of the third.

Crest: A demi-lion rampant argent.

CONSULT

O'Boylan

ANCIENTLY : O'Baoigheallain

VARIANTS : Boyland, Boreland, Bullion.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Boylan	49	DUB, MON, CAV, ARM, LOU.

ORIGINS : The most numerous today in the above counties, the Oriel sept of the O'Boylans covered Fermanagh and Louth. Though they declined in prominence, the barony of Dartry in Co. Monaghan remained O'Boylan Country.

A 14th century poem speaks of "the bold Kings of Dartry," possessing skills with horsemanship and noting their "blue eyes."

Location: Monaghan, Cavan, Meath.

Coat of Arms: Argent an eagle displayed sable armed or.

CONSULT

O'Boyle

ANCIENTLY : O'Baoighill

VARIANTS : Bog, Boal, Boil, Bole.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
O'Boyle	273	DON, ANT, MAY, TYR, ARM, LOU.

ORIGINS : One O'Boyle family was seated at Cloghineely in Co. Donegal, this sept was noted in earlier days for possessing a ruddy complexion.

An English family by the name was descended from Richard Boyle 1588 A.D., and it was he who assumed some of the estates of Sir Walter Raleigh in Waterford.

One of the more common surnames of Ireland, most individuals bearing this name reside in Ulster today.

Coat of Arms: Or an oaktree eradicated vert.

Crest: A sword point upwards proper and a passion cross or in saltire surmounted of a heart gules.

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

Memoirs of the Illustrious Family of the Boyles. Eustace Budgell. Dublin. 1755.

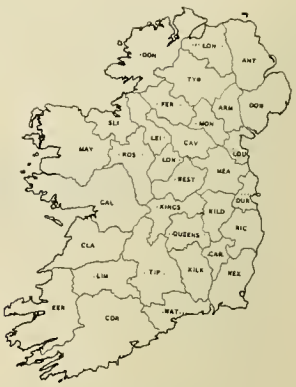
Genealogical Memoranda relating to the Family of Boyle of Limavady. E.M.F. G. Boyle. Londonderry. 1903.

CONSULT

Mac Brady

ANCIENTLY : MacBradaigh

VARIANTS : Brady, Briody.



RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Brady	261	CAV, DUB, ANT, MEA, LONG.

ORIGINS : One powerful MacBrady sept from Breffny, ruled the territory east of Cavantown, according to the Four Masters who cite many chiefs of the name there.

Several "Brady" families in County Clare (Tuamgraney) are actually from the O'Grady family of Co. Limerick, who adopted the name.

Location: Co. Cavan.

Coat of Arms: Sable, in the sinister base a dester hand couped at the wrist proper pointing with index finger to the sun in splendour in dexter chief or.

CONSULT Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

O'Brallaghan

ANCIENTLY : O'Brollachain

VARIANTS : Bradley

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Bradley	135	LOND, ANT, TYR, DON, DUB, COR.

ORIGINS : Still known as O'Brallaghan (Co. Derry), the name is most often found as Bradley, which is an English surname as well. The above mentioned counties, however, are abundantly Bradleys of Irish extraction.

The name is quite prominent in the 11th and 12th centuries.

Location: Co. Derry, Co. Cork, Tyrone, Donegal.

CONSULT

O'Breen, Mac Breen

ANCIENTLY : O'Braoin, MacBraoin

VARIANTS : Breen, Brien, Briene.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Breen	112	WEX, DUB, KER.

ORIGINS : The MacBreens and O'Breens were two distinctly separate families in Ireland. The MacBreens, an Ossory sept, centered in Co. Kilkenny near Knocktopher are today found mainly in Co. Wexford.

An O'Breen sept occupied Westmeath and Offaly near Athlone. O'Breen the "Lord of Brawney," was the chief of the name. Today it is believed the name has corrupted itself to O'Brien here, and Bruen and Browne in Roscommon and Mayo.

CONSULT

O'Brennan

ANCIENTLY : O'Braonain, MacBranain

VARIANTS : Brennan, Brannan, Briane, Brenon, Brannie, Braniff.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Brennan	358	KIL, DUB, SLI, MAY, CAR, ROS.

ORIGINS : The MacBranain sept were chiefs of Corcachlann in the eastern half of Co. Roscommon appearing in the Annals of the Four Masters as early as 1159. The "O" prefix was sometimes interchanged with the "Mac" prefix. Today they are found concentrated in Roscommon, Sligo, and Mayo.

Connacht

The O'Brennans were from Northern Kilkenny, and known as chiefs of Ui Duach (Idough). Three other distinct septs of O'Brennans were located in Counties Kerry, Westmeath, and Galway as well.

Coat of Arms (Connacht): Argent a lion rampant azure, in chief two dexter hands couped at the wrist apaumee gule.

Crest (Connacht): Out of a ducal coronet or a plume of five ostrich feathers alternately azure and or.

Ossory

Coat of Arms (Ossory): Gules two lions rampant combatant supporting a garb all or, in chief three swords two in saltire points upwards and one in fess point to the dexter, pommels and hilts of the second.

Crest (Ossory): An arm embowed in armour grasping a sword all proper.

CONSULT

The O'Brennans and the Ancient Territory of Hy Duach.
Rev. Nicholas Murphy. (O) 1874-79.

Mac Bride

ANCIENTLY : Mac Giolla Brighde

VARIANTS : Kilbride

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McBride	118	ANT, DON, DOW.

ORIGINS : Most numerous in Ulster, the family settled in Co. Donegal (Gweedore) in the 1600's. They were also numerous in Co. Down at this time. Some bishops of Raphoe bore this name as well.

MacBride is a well estalbished Scottish name also. The MacBrides in Connacht are also known as Kilbrides.

O'Maoilbrighde (O'Mulbride-MacBride) is cited as a chief in the barony of Athlone in Co. Roscommon. This territory lay east of the River Suck (Magh Finn and Bredach).

Known locations: Donegal and Down.

CONSULT

O'Brien

ANCIENTLY : O'Briain

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
O'Brien	502	DUB, MUN, CAV, GAL.
Brien	246	COR, DUB, TIP, WEX, WAT.

ORIGINS : One of the most outstanding families of Ireland, dating back to the 10th century when the great King of Ireland, Brian Boru came to prominence. It is from this man that the name is taken.

Controlling parts of Munster after this time, this Dalcassion sept (Ui Toirdealbhaig) broke into several sub-septs and grew stronger.

Mac Ui Bhriain Ara, was chief of the Tipperary sept of Ara. In Co. Limerick, the barony of Pubblebrien is so named commemorating the O'Brien presence.

One of the most numerous surnames of Ireland, the O'Briens. remain strong in their ancient locations particularly Co. Clare.

Locations: Clare, Tipperary, Limerick.

Coat of Arms: Gules three lions passant guardant in pale per pale or and argent.

The O'Briens in Munster after Clontarf. Rev. John Ryan. (N) 1941.

Carriogogunnell Castle and the O'Briens of Pubblebrian in the Co. of Limerick. Thomas J. Westropp. (R) 1907-08.

The Sept of Mac-I-Brien Ara. Rev. W.B. Steele. (C) 1897.

Historical Memoir of the O'Briens. John O'Donoghue. Dublin. 1860.

History of the O'Briens from Brian Boroimhe A.D. 1000 to A.D. 1945. Hon. Donough O'Brien. London. 1949.

The O'Briens. W.A. Lindsay. London. 1876.

Genealogical Notes on the O'Briens of Kilcour, Co. Cork. 1887.

CONSULT

O'Broder

ANCIENTLY : O'Bruadair, MacBruadair

VARIANTS : Broderick, Brothers, Brouder.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Broder	11	KER, LIM.
Broderick	39	GAL, COR, KER, DUB.

ORIGINS : Broderick is, of course, an English corruption of the original Gaelic spelling of Bruadair or Broder.

The County Cork O'Broders reside in the barony of Barrymore to this day, and are believed to be the same sept which settled in Ossory.

A seperate family of O'Broders has its roots in Galway.

The name Broder and Broderick was interchangeable for some, depending on the needs of the day.

Locations: Cork, Limerick.

Coat of Arms: Per pale gules and sable, on a fess between three griffins' heads erased or as many lozenges ermines.

Crest: A demi-greyhound sable holding in the paws a dart gule feathered argent.

CONSULT Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

Browne

ANCIENTLY : Brunach, De Brun

VARIANTS : Brown, Broune.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Brown	327	ANT, LOND, DOW, DUB.
Browne	146	COR, MAY, WEX, DUB.

ORIGINS : Another of the "Tribes" of Galway. Other Browne septs are centered in: Connacht, Breaghwy (Co. Mayo), Killarney (Co. Kerry, and Camus (Co. Limerick).

In Galway they are of Norman descent around the time of the Anglo-Norman Invasions. In Killarney they are of English extraction.

Location: Galway.

Coat of Arms: Or an eagle displayed with two heads sable.

CONSULT

The Kenmare Manuscripts. E. MacLysaght. Dublin, 1942.

Pedigree of the Brownes of Castle MacGarrett. Lord Oramore and Browne. (G) 1907-08.

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

O'Buhilly

ANCIENTLY : O'Buachalla

VARIANTS : Buckley, Boughla, Bohelly

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Buckley	184	COR, KER, DUB, KIL, TIP.

ORIGINS : Although also a common British name, most Irish Buckleys are not of English heritage. In the 17th century it was a principal name in the barony of Ballycowan written as "Bohelly."

Modern day descendants are concentrated in Co. Kerry and Co. Cork.

Locations: Cork, Kerry.

CONSULT

Burke

ANCIENTLY : de Burgo (Anglo-Norman)

VARIANTS : Bourke, deBurgh

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Burke	357	GAL, COR, DUB, MAY, TIP, WAT.
Bourke	140	TIP, LIM, MAY, KER, COR.

ORIGINS : The 14th most common surname of Ireland. Arrived as a result of the Anglo-Norman Invasion in the 12th century. The most Irish of all the Norman invaders, they adopted the customs and traditions of Ireland as true natives.

In 1179 They were granted large estates in Connacht.

Coat of Arms: Or a cross gules, in the dexter canton a lion rampant sable.

Crest: A cat-a-mountain sejant guardant proper collared and chained or.

Well known individuals of the name: William Fitzadelm deBurgo - Chief Governor.

The Family of Gall Burke, Gallstown, in the Co. of Kilkenny. John O'Donova. (K) 1860.

The Rt. Hon. Edmund Burke (1729-97). Basil O'Connell. (C) 1955.

Some Notes on the Burkes. M.R. (G) 1900-01.

The DeBurgo Clans of Galway. H.T. Knox. (G) 1905-06.

Portumna and the Burkes. H.T. Knox. (G) 1909-10.

The Burkes of Marble Hill. Thomas U. Sadlier. (G) 1913-14.

Seanchus na mBurcach and Historia et Genealogia Familiae DeBurgo. Thomas O'Reilly. 1928-29. (G)

The deBurghs of Oldtown. Lt.-Col. Thomas J. deBurgh. (K) 1903-05.

The Bourkes of Clanwilliam. James Grene Barry. (R) 1889.

The deBurgos or Bourkes of Ileagh. M. Callanan. (N) 1936-39.

CONSULT

Burns

ANCIENTLY : O'Beirne, Byrne, Birrane (of Irish origins)

VARIANTS : Byrnes, O'Byrne.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Burns	219	ANT, DOW, ARM, CLA, COR, KER, TIP.

ORIGINS : The O'Beirnes and O'Burns are recorded in Counties Mayo and Sligo in earlier days and are considered true Irish families.

O'Broin, anglicized to Burns, was also recorded as chief of Lough Gealogosa, adjoining the Corca Mogha district in Co. Galway.

(See O'Beirne.)

CONSULT

Butler

ANCIENTLY : de Buitleir

VARIANTS : Buttler

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Butler	172	DUB, KIL, TIP, WAT.

ORIGINS : Butlers being so widely spread through Ireland, a pedigree is difficult to attain. The Ormond Butlers, with their castle in Kilkenny, are fairly well documented however. Descended from the "Chief Butler of Ireland," in the 12th century (Theobald Fitzwalter). "The Ormond" manuscripts in the National Library of Ireland offers a great amount of information.

An old sept of Butlers is also established in Co. Clare. A good source to consult: The Butlers of Co. Clare by Sir Henry Butler Blackall.

Coat of Arms: Quarterly - 1st and 4th, or a chief indented azure; 2nd and 3rd, gules three covered cups or.

Crest: Out of a ducal coronet or a plume of five ostrich feathers argent, therefrom issuant a falcon rising of the last.

CONSULT

Some Account of the Family of Butler, but more particularly of the late Duke of Ormonde. London. 1716.

Genealogical Memoranda of The Butler Family. W. Butler. Sibsagor, Assam. 1845.

A Genealogical History of the Nobel...House of Butler in England and Ireland. London. 1771.

The Testamentary Records of the Butler Families in Ireland (Genealogical Abstracts). Rev. Wallace Clare. Peterborough. 1932.

Original Documents Relating to the Butler Lordship of Achill, Burrishoole and Aughrim (1236-1640). Prof. Edmund Curtis. (G) 1931-33.

The Descendants of James, Ninth Earl of Ormond. Wm. F. Butler. (R) 1929.

An Irish Legend of the Origins of the Barons of Cahir. W.F. Butler. (R) 1925.

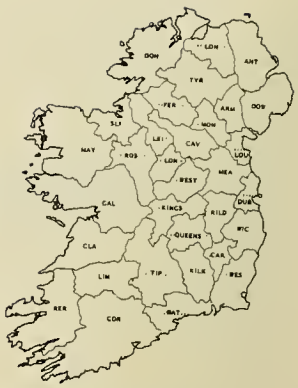
O'Byrne

ANCIENTLY : O'Broin

VARIANTS : Byrne

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Byrne	734	DUB, WIC, WEX, LOU, WAT, DON, GAL, MAY, ROS.
O'Byrne	8	COR.



ORIGINS : Descendant from Broden the King of Leinster (d. 1052). Originally from Co. Kildare they were driven by the Anglo-Norman invasions into Co. Wicklow circa 1200 A.D.

A major branch, in southern Wicklow (Rathdrum to Shillelagh), was seated at Ballinacor and known as Ui Broin.

The book covering the 16th century O'Byrnes, Leabhar Branach (or Book of the O'Brynes) was compiled by over 30 authors.

The seventh most common of all Irish names in Ireland, most modern O'Byrnes reside in Dublin or Co. Wicklow areas.

The Byrnes of Co. Louth. Patrick Kirwan. (L) 1908-11.

Historical reminiscences of the O'Byrnes, O'Tooles, and O'Gyrnes, O'Tooles, and O'Kavanaghs and other Irish Chieftains. O'Byrne. London. 1843.

The O'Byrnes and Their Descendants. Dublin. 1879.

History of the Clan O'Byrne and other Leinster Septs. Rev. P.L. O'Toole. Dublin. 1890.

CONSULT

Mac Cabe

ANCIENTLY : Mac Caba

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McCabe	145	CAV, MON, DUB.

ORIGINS : Coming from Scotland in the mid-14th century, they became a strong Breffny sept, the chief being known as "Constable of the Breffnys." Breffny is still the heart of MacCabe country today.

Coat of Arms: Vert a fess wavy between three salmon naiant argent.

Crest: A demi-griffin segreant.

Motto: Aut Vincere Aut Mori.

CONSULT

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

The Formorians and Lochlanns. Pedigrees of MacCabe of Ireland and MacLeod of Scotland. John O'Donovan. (U) 1861-62.

McCafferty

ANCIENTLY : MacEachmharcaigh (steed-rider)

VARIANTS : MacCafferky, (MacCafferty)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Cafferty	6	CAV.
McCafferty	24	DON, LOND, ANT.

ORIGINS : The original spelling in Co. Mayo was MacCafferky, sometimes changed to MacCafferty.

The MacCaffrey surname is found primarily in Fermanagh and Tyrone, and is believed to be of separate origins.

The name McCafferky or McCafferty has been cited as being changed to McCaffrey in isolated instances .

CONSULT

Mac Caffrey

ANCIENTLY : MacGafraidh

VARIANTS : MacCafferky, MacGoffrey, Caffreys

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Cafferky	25	MAY, ROS.
Caffrey	35	DUB, MEA, CAV.
McCaffrey	61	FER, TYR.

ORIGINS : Ballymacaffrey townland on the border of Tyrone is the heart of MacCaffrey country. Actually descended from the MacGuires of Fermanagh.

MacCafferky families in Co. Mayo have also corrupted their name to this form.

CONSULT

O'Cahan

ANCIENTLY : O'Cathain

VARIANTS : Keane, O'Kane, Kane, Kean, Cahane.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Keane	202	GAL, CLA, KER, MAY.
Kane	190	ANT, LOND, DUB.

ORIGINS : The modern day name springs from O'Cathain.

O'Cahan and MacCahan are derivitives of the original Gaelic. Today the name is found as "Keane" in Munster and Connaught, and "Kane" in Ulster.

The Cahanes of western Clare were co-arbs of St. Senan and spelled the name MacCahan, although it has been stated that they were anciently descended from the Ulster sept of O'Cathain.

In Co. Derry the sept became prominent in the 12th century in Keenaght and Coleraine up until the plantations of Ulster. They are said as well to have been the innaugarators of the O'Neill.

The Waterford sept is completely separate from the rest, descending from O'Cein and cited by O'Heerin.

Well known individuals of the name: Donnell Ballagh O'Cahan (d. 1617) - Last formally inaugerated chief of the name.

Sir Robert John Kane (1809-1890) - Scientist operating in Dublin.

CONSULT

Some Accounts of the Sept of The O'Caithainsof Ciannachta Glinne-Geinhin. J. Scott Parker. Ulster Journal of Archeology. 1856.

O'Cahill

ANCIENTLY : O'Cathail

VARIANTS : Cahill

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Cahill	147	COR, KER, DUB, KIL, TIP.

ORIGINS : Originally found in Co. Galway near the County Clare boundary, the head of the name was chief of Kinlea. The name is still found in Co. Clare today with modern day descendants.

Other septs of this name were located at: Lough Leane in Co. Kerry, and Co. Tipperary near Thurles and Templemore. Towns by the name of Ballycahill are found in Counties Tipperary, Galway and Clare, commemorating the name.

Coat of Arms (Munster): Argent a whale spouting in the sea proper.

Crest: An anchor erect cable twined around the stock all proper.

CONSULT

O'Callaghan

ANCIENTLY : O'Ceallachain

VARIANTS : Kelaghan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Callaghan	250	COR, KER, DUB.
O'Callaghan	54	COR.

ORIGINS : The great ancestor of the O'Callaghan sept was Ceallachan, King of Munster (d. 952). Originally inhabiting the barony of Kinlea in Co. Cork, they were forced into Northern Cork near Mallow until the invasion of Cromwell.

Being transplanted to Co. Clare, O'Callaghan's Mills stands as a testament to their past, although the majority are still to be found in Cork.

The Kelaghan families of Oriel have sometimes changed their spelling to this form as well.

Coat of Arms: Argent in base a mount vert on the dexter side a hurst of oak trees issuant therefrom a wolf passant towards the sinister all proper.

Prominent in the Irish Brigades of France as well as being well documented in Spain.

Locations: Cork, Clare.

CONSULT

The Chieftains of Pobul-I-Callaghan, Co. Cork. Hubert Webb Gillman. (C) 1897. N.S. III

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

O'Callinan

ANCIENTLY : O'Callanain

VARIANTS : Callenen, Cullenan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Callanan	18	GAL, COR.
Callinan	13	CLA.

ORIGINS : The name is cited as O'Cullenanor MacCullenan, and they were mentioned as "hereditary physicians" and learned men of Ormond. The chief family of the name served as physicians to the McCarthy family of Munster.

The O'Callanans are also cited as hereditary physicians in Galway, and in this county a member of the family was also an Erenagh.

A tradition of service in the medical arts is part of the Callanan family heritage.

CONSULT

Mac Cann

ANCIENTLY : MacAnnadh

VARIANTS : Canny, MacAnna

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Canny	8	CLA, MAY.
McCann	177	ANT, ARM, DUB, TYR.

ORIGINS : Known as "Lords of Clanbrassil" from Co. Armagh on the shores of Lough Neogh. The name remains strong there, as well as being found in Co. Clare and Co. Limerick as Canny.

According to O'Hart in his "Irish Pedigrees," the MacCans are descended from the McMahons of Co. Monaghan. Cana (Annadh) is the man from whom the name is taken according to this pedigree.

Also recorded in Co. Louth from the 1400's on in the Union of Ardee.

Coat of Arms: Azure fretty or, on a fess argent a boar passant gules.

Crest: A salmon naiant proper.

Motto: Crescit Auv Pondere Virtus.

CONSULT

The Register of Primate Cromer, Co. Louth. Housed in Armagh. Recordings of the Armagh Curia.

Origins of the McCanns. Anthony Mathews. Drogheda, Ireland. 1978.

The McCann Book. Irish Genealogical Foundation. 1982.

O'Cannon

ANCIENTLY : O'Canain

VARIANTS : MacCannon, Canaan, Cannan, Gannon, Kennon.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Cannon	49	DON, LEI, MAY.

ORIGINS : This surname has been derived from two separate septs. First from O'Canain which is originally found in southern Galway, and secondly from O'Canannain (O'Canann), "The Kings of Ciel Connaill" as mentioned in the annals who lived in Co. Donegal being an old terconnell sept.

MacCannon is also a name to be found in Dublin and Meath as well for several hundred years.

An O'Cannon castle can be found in the vicinity of Letterkenny.

CONSULT

Carey

ANCIENTLY : O'Ciardha

VARIANTS : Carr, Carew, Ceary, Karey, Keary, Keern, Keery.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Carr	90	DON, GAL, DUB.
Carey	118	COR, DUB, TIP, MAY, KER.

ORIGINS : Originally "Lords of Carbury" from Co. Kildare, the name has been adopted by other septs as well. (I.E., Kerin - O'Ceirin, O'Carra, etc.) Mainly present in Munster.

CONSULT

O'Carolan

ANCIENTLY : O'Cearbhallain, O'Caireallain

VARIANTS : Carleton, Carlan, Carland, Carlin, Carolin, Carollan, Carrolan, Kerlin, Kirland.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Carolan	47	MAY, CAV.
Carleton	15	ANT.

ORIGINS : The O'Caireallain sept originates in Derry, being the head of Clan Diarmada.

O'Cearbhallain originates from Co. Cavan, Monaghan, and later in Meath.

CONSULT

O'Carroll, Mac Carroll

ANCIENTLY : O'Cearbhaill

VARIANTS : MacCarvill, Carroll, Caroll. Carrolly.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Carroll	386	DUB, KIL, COR, TIP, LIM, LEI, MUN, CON.
McCarroll	13	LON.
O'Carroll	5	

ORIGINS : Several separate O'Carroll families are of record, a few of which are covered here. The sept of the "Ely O'Carrols" from Tipperary and Offaly for one. And the separate sept of the Oriel O'Carrolls (Monaghan and Louth).

The MacCarrolls derive their name from MacCearbhaill, and are found in Ulster as MacCarvill today.

Coat of Arms: Sable two lions rampant combatant or armed and langued gules supporting a sword point upwards proper pommel and hilt of the first.

CONSULT

Pedigree of the O'Carroll Family. E. O'Carroll. 1883

True version of the Pedigree of Carroll of Carrollton. Maryland. (R) 1883.

Mac Cartan

ANCIENTLY : Mac Artain

VARIANTS : McArtain, Carton, MacArton

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Carton	32	DUB, WEX, LOND.
McCart	6	ANT.
McCARTAN	35	DOW, ARM.

ORIGINS : The chiefs of Kinelarty (Co. Down), where the lands were known as McArtans country, present day MaCartans live in this county and Armagh as well.

Many Carton families are found in Dublin and Wexford as well, but are of a different origin completely.

Coat of Arms: Vert a lion rampant or, on a chief argent a crescent between two dexter hands couped at the wrist gules.

Crest: A lance erect or headed argent entwined with a snake descending vert.

Motto: Buailimse e'

CONSULT

Mac Carthy

ANCIENTLY : MacCarthaigh

VARIANTS : Carty, Charthy, M'Arthy.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Carthy	25	WIC, WAT, COR.
McCarthy	489	COR, KER, LIM, DUB, ANT, MUN.

ORIGINS : Gaining an early prominence in Munster (Desmond), the majority of MacCarthys are found in Co. Cork today. The name itself is one of the 12 most common surnames in Ireland.

The name is derived from Cartach, a descendant of Oilioll Olum. The "McCarthy Mor" branch thrived in Co. Kerry, while the "MacCarthy Reagh" came from Carbery in Co. Cork, and the barony of Muskerry housed another branch as well.

The Muskerry branch was seated at Blarney Castle, Co. Cork.

The McCarthy Mor sept was seated at Muckross by Killarney.

Coat of Arms: Argent a stag trippant gules attired and unguled or.

CONSULT

The Pedigree and Succession of the House of MacCarthy Mor. W.F. Butler. (R) 1921.

The Clann Carthaigh. S.J. McCarthy. (K) 1917.

Some McCarthys of Blarney and Ballea. John T. Collins. (C) 1955.

The MacCarthys of Drishane. S.T. MacCarthy. (C) 1917.

A Historical Pedigree of the MacCarthys. D. MacCarthy. Exeter. 1880.

The MacFinnin MacCarthys of Ardtully. R. MacCarthy. (C) 1896.

O'Casey

ANCIENTLY : O'Cathasaigh

VARIANTS : MacCasey, O'Cahassy, Casey

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Casey	254	COR, KER, DUB, LIM.

ORIGINS : One O'Casey sept comes from Co. Dublin in the barony of Balrothy West. Another major sept springs from Devinish, Co. Fermanagh. The name is now widely spread throughout Ireland.

A Dalcassion sept was located in Liscannon (Co. Limerick) and Mitchelstown (Co. Cork) was another center, as well as Tirawley in Co. Mayo, and the barony of Athlone in Co. Roscommon.

The remains of "Caseys Leos" mark a Waterford sept.

MacCaseys were also found in Co. Monaghan.

Coat of Arms: Argent a chevronel between three eagle heads erased gules.

CONSULT

O'Cassidy

ANCIENTLY : O'Caiside

VARIANTS : Casaday, Casidy, Casley, Cassedy, Cassiday, Castles, Cushlane.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Cassidy	141	DON, DUB, ANT, FER.

ORIGINS : Originally from Co. Fermanagh, and still numerous there today. The O'Cassidys were known as great physicians of earlier days to the MacGuire family.

Coat of Arms: Per chevron argent and gules, in chief two lions rampant and in base a boar passant both counter-changed.

Crest: A spear broken into three peices two in saltire and the head in pale proper banded gules.

CONSULT

Clogherici: Muintir Caside. P. O'Gallachair. Clogher, I. 1956.

Mac Clancy

ANCIENTLY : MacFhlannchaidh

VARIANTS : Glanchy, Clanchy, Glancy.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Clancy	100	CLA, LEI, GAL, TIP.

ORIGINS : Cohermacclancy marks the location of the "Thomand" MacClancys, who were a branch of the Macnamaras in Co. Clare. It is here and in Galway and Tipperary where the name is most popular today.

Another sept cames from Dartry (Rosclogher) in Co. Leitrim.

Coat of Arms: Argent two lions passant guardant in pale gules.

Crest: A dexter hand couped at the wrist erect holding a sword in pale pierced through a boar's head couped all proper.

CONSULT

Clarke

ANCIENTLY : See O'Clery (of Irish origins)

VARIANTS : Clairke, Clark, Clarkins, Clerke, Collery.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Clarke	345	ANT, DUB, MAY, CAV, LOU.
Clarkson	5	

ORIGINS : The O'Clerys (or Clarkes) were a branch of the O'Clerys of Connaught and Donegal, numerous in the baronies of Tullygarvey and Clankee, Co. Cavan. "Clarke" was an anglicized spelling.

They were also chiefs of Ui Fiachra Finn, in Aidhne, where the name was anglized to "Clarke" as well. In Donegal this family became the author of The Annals of the Four Masters, as well as serving as bards and historians to the O'Donnells, princes of Tyronnell.

CONSULT

The History and Genealogy of the Clark Family and its Connections. Charles Lamartine Clark. Detroit. 1898.

O'Clery

ANCIENTLY : O'Cleirigh

VARIANTS : Clarke, Cleary, MacCleary, Clerken

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Cleary	127	DUB, TIP, CLA, LIM, WAT.
Clarke	345	ANT, DUB, MAY, CAV, LOU, ULS.
Clerkin	15	

ORIGINS : Descendant through Cleirach (820 A.D.) this was a leading family in the area of the diocese of Kilmacduagh.

One branch settled in Co. Derry and Co. Donegal.

The variant Clerkin (O'Cleirchin) sept, has also been altered to Cleary at random, originally coming from the barony of Coshma, Co. Limerick.

The surname "Clarke" may also be a variant of O'Clery (as well as of English origin).

Coat of Arms: Or three nettle leaves vert.

The O'Cleirigh Family of Tir Conaill. Rev. Paul Walsh. Dublin. 1938.

The History and Genealogy of the Clark family and its Connections. Charles Lamartine Carlk. Detroit. 1898.

CONSULT

McCloskey

ANCIENTLY : Mac Bhloscaidh.

VARIANTS : McCluskey

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McCloskey	47	LOND.
McCluskey	24	ANT, DUB.

ORIGINS : An Ulster sept. Blosky O'Cahan is mentioned in the annals of Irish history in the year 1196. He was the ancestor of a McCloskey sept to become prominent in Derry. His son was Donnough and is mentioned in the annals as well.

An important sept in O'Cahan's country, they were often rivals of the O'Mullans.

Two chief clans in the parish of Dungiven were McCloskey and O'Kane.

Benady Glen has been a traditional territory.

Well known individuals of the name: Brian Backagh McCloskey of Leck. Murdered in 1793.

CONSULT

The Ulster Clans. Rev. T.H. Mullin & Rev. J.E. Mullan. Belfast. 1966.

Genealogical Office, Dublin Castle, Dublin.

Genealogical Office, Northern Ireland.

O'Coffey

ANCIENTLY : O'Cobhthaigh

VARIANTS : Cowhig, Cowhey, Coffee.

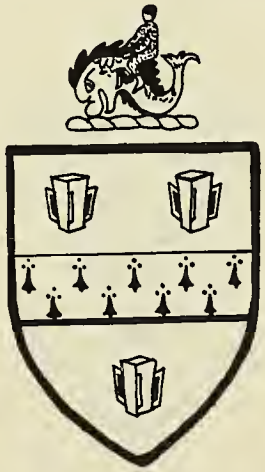
RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Coffey	98	KER, TIP, DUB, COR, ROS.

ORIGINS : One sept related to the O'Driscolls, hails from Co. Cork in the Corcalaoidhe area in the southwest part of the county. It is this branch which primarily bears the above variant spellings. Septs also existed in Co. Roscommon and in Co. Westmeath (known for its poets).

Coat of Arms: Vert a fess ermine between three Irish cups or.

Crest: A man riding on a dolphin proper.



CONSULT

Genealogical and Historical Records of the Sept Cobhthaigh, Now Coffey. H. Cofrey. Dublin. 1863.

Mac Colgan

ANCIENTLY : Mac Colgan

VARIANTS : O'Colgan, Colgen, Colgun, Coligan, Colligan, Culligan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Colgan	32	DUB, KIN, ANT.

ORIGINS : Greatly reduced in numbers today, the Colgans are mainly found in Offaly and the upper portion of Ulster.

The O'Colgan sept eventually adopted the MacColgan spelling which was the more influential of the two septs.

Coat of Arms: Azure a lion rampant between three pheon points down argent.

Locations: Tirkeeran, Co. Derry (14th Century). MacColgan - Co. Offaly.

CONSULT Four Masters (1212 A.D.+).

Collins

ANCIENTLY : O'Coileain (Of Irish origins)

VARIANTS : Collen, Culhane, Cullane, Cullen, McCallan, Quillane.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Collins	352	COR, LIM, DUB, GAL, ANT, KER, CLA.

ORIGINS : The 30th most popular name of Ireland.

Irish Septs:

1. Anciently recorded as chiefs in the barony of Connello, Co. Limerick by the poet O'Heerin. He also cites the name O'Cuillein (O'Cullen, or Collins) as chief of Eoganacht Arodh, in Tipperary, as follows:

   "O'Cullen who has gained good fame,
   Rules over the hospitable Eoganacht of Ara."

2. O'Cuilean - Was another Irish sept of Corca Laoidhe, which anglicized its spelling to Collins.
3. MacCoileain - Of Ulster, changed to Collins as well.

CONSULT

O'Colman

ANCIENTLY : O'Colmain (O'Clumhain)

VARIANTS : Coleman

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Coleman	138	COR, ROS, DUB, WAT.

ORIGINS : Locations: Barony of Tireragh, Co. Sligo. Co. Cork.

Of Ui Fiachrach territory, the name can be found in all the provinces of Ireland, with however, very few in Ulster by comparison.

The O'Clumhain spelling of ancient times has been anglicized to Colman, and was of the County Cork area.

Also an English surname, the vast majority of the name are of Irish origins.

MacColman, an entirely separate surname, is cited as a chief clan of Co. Louth in earlier times. MacColman is also a variant of MacCalmont, found in County Antrim as early as the 1600's. Said to be of Scottish origins from the Buchanan clan.

CONSULT

O'Concannon

ANCIENTLY : O'Concheanainn

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Concannon	18	GAL, MAY, ROS.

ORIGINS : Almost exclusively still found in their ancient territory in Co. Galway.

O'Concannon was cited as chief of Ui Diarmada, on the Galway and Roscommon border, in the baronies of Athlone and Ballymoe. (As cited by O'Dugan.)

Coat of Arms: Argent on a mount in base proper an oak tree vert, perched on the top thereof a falcon proper, two crosses crosslet fitchee in fess azure.

Crest: An elephant sable tusked or.

Motto: Con Can An.

CONSULT

Annals of the 4 Masters.

Composition Book of Connacht.

Condon

ANCIENTLY : Condun

VARIANTS : Condron.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Condon	64	COR, TIP, KER.

ORIGINS : This sept entered Ireland during the Anglo-Norman invasions, and were originally of English descent, but became thoroughly Irish in time.

Locations: Cork and Southern Tipperary. (Barony of Condon, Kilworth.)

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion rampant gules langued and armed azure.

CONSULT

The Condons of Clonleigh. P. Ryamond. (C) N.S.II. 1896.

O'Connell

ANCIENTLY : O'Conghail

VARIANTS : Connelly, Conall.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
O'Connell	130	COR, LIM, KER, DUB.
Connell	242	COR, KER, LIM, TIP, GAL.

ORIGINS : Several other septs have disappeared, but this County Kerry sept also has a branch which was forced into Co. Clare under Cromwell.

Several of these O'Connells grew to national importance, not the least of which was Daniel O'Connell, the liberator (1775-1847).

The Muskerry branch was seated at Blarney Castle, Co. Cork.

The McCarthy Mor sept was seated at Muckross by Killarney.

Coat of Arms: Per fess argent and vert a stag trippant proper between three trefoils slipped counterchanged.

Motto: Frangas non Flectes

Location: Co. Kerry (barony of Magunihy).

CONSULT

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

O'Connell Family Tracts. Basil M. O'Connell. Dublin. 1947-48.

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

O'Connellan

ANCIENTLY : O'Conallain (Roscommon & Galway)
O'Coinghiollain (Sligo)

VARIANTS : Conlon, Conlan, O'Kendellan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Conlon (66)	107	ROS, MAY, SLI,
Conlan (36)		LEI, ULS.
Connellan	8	MUN, ULS, CON,
		LEI.

ORIGINS : The O'Connellan spelling has generally fallen into disuse.

This name is also found in Co. Meath. In the 1600's it was far more numerous than today covering several other counties.

O'CoindelBhain is cited as prince of Ui Laeghari (Ive Leary). This territory covered Meath and Westmeath. The parish of Castletown, Kendellan in Westmeath, and the townland of Kendellan's town close to Navan, are included in these lands.

CONSULT

O'Connolly

ANCIENTLY : O'Conghaile
O'Coingheallaigh (Munster)

VARIANTS : Conneely, Kinnealy

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Conneely	92	GAL.

ORIGINS : The Munster sept was in West Cork.

Widely spread throughout Ireland.

The Co. Monaghan sept was one of the original Four Tribes of Tara, before being forced into Monaghan.

The Galway sept spells the name "Connelly" and is of the Ui Maine.

Coat of Arms: Argent on a saltire sable five escallops of the field.

Arms are of the Co. Kildare family.

CONSULT

Cloherici: The Connollys of Fermanagh and Co. Monaghan.
P. O'Gallachair. Clogher, II. 1957.

O'Connor

ANCIENTLY : Conchobhar

VARIANTS : O'Conor, O'Coner, Conier, Conner, Conyer.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
O'Connor	266	KER, COR, LIM, DUB, CLA, GAL.
Connor	432	KER, DUB, MAY, COR, ROS, GAL, ANT, LOND.

ORIGINS : The most noted are those of Connacht, descended from Conchobhar, King of Connacht (d. 971). The main branches of this sept were: 1) O'Connor Don, 2) O'Connor Roe, and 3) O'Connor Sligo.

The Kerry sept was pushed north during the Norman Invasions but held influence still in the barony of Iraghticonor. This is the most numerous O'Connor sept today.

The O'Connors of Clare, barony of Corcomroe, are also a separate sept. These O'Connors descended from the same ancestors as the O'Loughlins of the Burren.

The Offaly branch descended from Cathaoir Mor, an Irish king in the 2nd century.

O'Connor Kerry | O'Connor Don | O'Connor Corcomroe | O'Connor Sligo | O'Connor Faly

The O'Conors of Connaught. C. O'Conor Don. Dublin. 1891.

Memoirs of Charles O'Conor of Belenagare, with a historical account of the family of O'Conor. Rev. C. O'Conor. Dublin. 1796.

Memoir of the O'Connors of Ballintubber, Co. Roscommon R. O'Conor. Dublin. 1859.

Lineal descent of the O'Connors of Co. Roscommon. R. O'Connor. Dublin. 1862.

Historical and Genealogical Memoir of the O'Connors, Kings of Commaught. R. O'Connor. Dublin. 1861.

CONSULT

O'Conry, Conroy

ANCIENTLY : O'Maolconaire, O'Mulconry

VARIANTS : Conary, Conrahy, Conree, Cory, Conry, Connery, etc.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Conry	52	MAY, ROS.
Conroy	78	GAL, QUE, DUB.

ORIGINS : So many names have been corrupted into or from this spelling, that it is next to impossible to define.

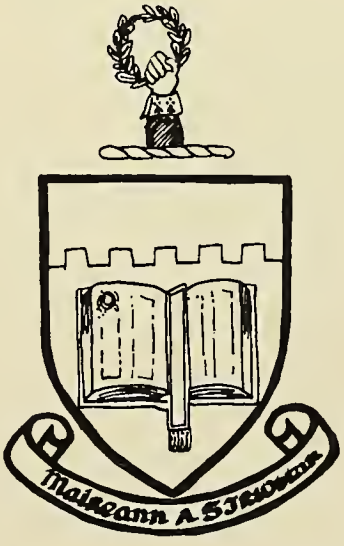
Coat of Arms - O'Conry (Offaly): Quarterly, 1st, Vert three goats passant argent; 2nd, Argent a lion rampant gules; 3rd, Gules three escallops argent; 4th, Vert a cock statant proper.

Crest - O'Conry (Offaly): A blackamoor's head in profile couped at the shoulders sable and bound round the temples with a ribbon argent.

Coat of Arms - Conroy: Azure an ancient book open indexed edged or, a chief embattled of the last.

Crest - Conroy: A dexter arm vested or cuffed ermine grasping a weath of laurel proper.

Motto - Conroy: Maireann A Sjriobtar



CONSULT

Mac Considine

ANCIENTLY : MacConsaidin

VARIANTS : Considine

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Considine	21	CLA, LIM.

ORIGINS : A branch of the O'Brien family, the Considine family is traditionally centered in Co. Clare. They are cited in the barony of Ibracken, Co. Clare in earlier times.

Coat of Arms: Per pale sable and gule three lions passant guardant in pale per pale or and argent armed azure.

CONSULT

Mac Conway, O'Conway

ANCIENTLY : Connmhaigh

VARIANTS : Conboy, Convey

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Conway	169	MAY, TYR, DUB, MUN.
Convey	5	MAY, DOW.
Conboy	12	ROS, SLI.

ORIGINS : Several completely distinct Irish families now bear this surname. Four of which are as follows:

1. Of Thomand - Mac Connmhaigh.
2. Of Co. Tyrone - Mac Conmidhe.
3. Of Co. Mayo - O'Conmhachain.
4. Of Easky, Co. Sligo - O'Conbhuidhe.

Mac Conmedha (MacConway) is cited as a principal chief of Tefia, in the territory of Muintir Laodagain.

CONSULT

The Conways of Kerry. S.J.M. (K) 1920.

O'Cooney

ANCIENTLY : O'Cuana

VARIANTS : Cooney, Coonahan, Coonan, Cooihan, Coumey, Counihan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Cooney	76	MAY, DUB.

ORIGINS : Location: Originally in Ulster (Tyrone) and moved toward Connacht in the north.

The 1659 census shows Cooneys in County Clare.

Cited as a clan of Tir Eogain in the 12th century by O'Dugan as O'Cuanaich or O'Cooney.

Note the placename of Ballycooney.

CONSULT

Corcoran

ANCIENTLY : Corcrain

VARIANTS : MacCorcoran (Offaly, Tipperary)
O'Corcoran (Fermanagh, Mayo, Sligo)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Corcoran	132	MAY, COR, TIP, DUB, KER.

ORIGINS : The O'Corcorans are found early in Co. Fermanagh and the Lough Erne area of Ireland. Found in Offally and Tipperary at a later date (the 1500's). Counties Cork and Tipperary bear the name commonly today.

Cited as a clan of Ormond and Desi, MacCorcoran is stated to be chief of Clan Ruainni, according to O'Heerin.

Well known individual of the name: Brigadier General Michael Corcoran (1827-1863) - Formed an Irish legion in 1861 in the U.S.A.

CONSULT

Mac Cormack

ANCIENTLY : O'Cormacan, MacCormaic.

VARIANTS : MacCormick, MacCormac

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McCormack	118	DUB, MAY, ROS, LIM.
McCormick	165	ANT, DUB, DOW.
Cormack	18	KIL, TIP.

ORIGINS : Widely spread throughout Ireland.

When found in Ulster, it is of possible Scottish origin. (MacCormick is the most common spelling there.)

One distinct sept is found in the counties of Fermanagh and Longford.

Documented in Co. Cork in the later half of the 1500's and prominent in Muskerry as well.

O'Cormican is often found as McCormack today as well. Most common in modern times, in Galway, this name also originated in Roscommon, Down, Galway, and Thomand. Several were Bishops of Killaloe up until the 1300's.

CONSULT

Scotch-Irish in Ireland and in America... Andrew P. McCormick. New Orleans. 1897.

O'Corrigan

ANCIENTLY : O'Corragain

VARIANTS : Corrigan, Carrigan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

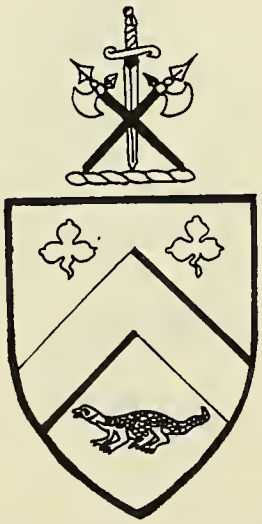
Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Corrigan	74	DUB, MAY, FER, MON, LOU.

ORIGINS : Locations: Fermanagh, Offaly, and Longford.

Ballycorrigan is found in Co. Tipperary.

Coat of Arms: Or a chevron between two trefoils slipt in chief and in base a lizard passant vert.

Crest: Two battle axes in saltire in front of a sword proper point downwards pommel and hilt or.



CONSULT

Mac Costello

ANCIENTLY : Nangles (Norman Descent)

VARIANTS : Costellow, Costelo, Costillo, Costily, Costolloe, Costoloe, Cushley.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Costello	80	MAY, DUB, GAL.
Costelloe	58	LIM, GAL, CLA.

ORIGINS : The barony of Costello is found in Co. Mayo.

Coat of Arms: Or three fusils azure.

Crest: A falcon proper belled and jessed or.

(See Nagles. Some families of this name became MacCostelloes.)

CONSULT

Mac Cotter

ANCIENTLY : MacOitir, MacCoiter.

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Cotter	64	COR.

ORIGINS : Originally the name began with an "O" preceded by the "Mac" prefix.

Traditionally centered in Co. Cork, the name is said to be of Irish and Norman origins here.

Note the placename of Ballymacotter.

Coat of Arms: Azure three evetts pale proper.

Crest: A lion passant reguardant proper.

CONSULT

Notes on the Cotter Family of Rockforest, Co. Cork. J.C. (C) 1908.

The Cotter Family of Rockforest, Co. Cork. G de P. Cotter. (C) 1938.

Mac Coughlan, O'Coughlan

ANCIENTLY : MacCochlain, O'Cochlain

VARIANTS : Cohalan, Couglan, Coughlen, etc.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Coughlan (65) Coghlan (49)	125	COR. COR, DUB.

ORIGINS : Record of the MacCoghlan sept were kept as early as the 1100's by the Four Masters. The chief of the name was called Chief of Delvin MacCoughlan. Present day descendants are dispersed from their ancient territory most generally.

The O'Coughlans (Co. Cork) are still predominate in their ancient territories to this day.

Locations: MacCoughlan - Garrycastle, Co. Offaly. O'Coughlan - Co. Cork (baronies of Carbery and Ballymore).

Coat of Arms - MacCoghlan: Argent three lions passant guardant gules crowned or.

CONSULT

Mac Coy, Mac Cooey

ANCIENTLY : MacAodha, MacCobhthaigh

VARIANTS : MaKay, Coonahan, Coonan, Coonihan, Coumey, Counihan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McCoy	41	ANT, ARM, MON.
Coy	5	

ORIGINS : Arrived in Ireland with the Gallowglasses from Scotland. The name stems from MacAodha (son of Hugh), and is most common in the province of Ulster.

MacCoy has also been cited in Co. Limerick by Woulfe.

MacHugh is cited as a principal chief in Teffia. The name is further recorded as settling in Co. Cavan anciently.

O'Hugh is found anciently as chief in the barony of Tir Hugh at Ballyshannon. O'Hugh is cited as well as chief of Fernmoy, barony of Lower Iveagh, Co. Down.

Also cited as a sept of Ui Maine, MacHugh is mentioned as being on the eastern of Lough Carrib by O'Dugan.

(The above references to MacHugh or O'Hughes bears no confirmed relationship to MacCoy.)

CONSULT

Coyne

ANCIENTLY : O'Cadhain, O'Comhdhain

VARIANTS : Kyne, Coen, Kilcoyne.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Coyne	54	GAL, MAY.
Kyne	27	GAL, MAY.
Coen	27	GAL, MAY.
Kilcoyne	15	MAY, SLI.

ORIGINS : Of the province of Connacht, the territory of this sept was that of Ui Fiachrach. Primary counties of residence are Galway and Mayo.

The O'Cadhain sept is found in Co. Mayo near Partry in its earliest days.

Kilcoyne seems to be centered in Mayo and Sligo and the Coen families in Galway and Roscommon, prior to the 1890 birth index. Kilcoyne was originally an entirely separate family, but is often found as Coyne today.

CONSULT

Creagh

ANCIENTLY : Craobhach

VARIANTS : Craigh

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Creagh	17	

ORIGINS : Found in Clare, Limerick, and Cork.

A Branch of the O'Neils of Co. Clare.

The family is also found in the Irish Brigades in Europe, as well as in the British army. Several were transplanted by Cromwell from Limerick.

The O'Creaghs defeated the Danes (Vikings) on several occassions. Wearing green branches on their helmets, they are said to have derived the name from O'Craoibh, which means "of the branches."

Well known individual of the name: Richard Creagh - A Catholic Archbishop of Armagh in 1585, and wrote on the lives of the saints and church history.

Coat of Arms: Argent a chevron gules between three laurel branches vert, on a chief azure as many bezants.

Crest: A horse's head erased argent caparisoned gules in the headstall of the bridle a laurel branch vert.

Motto: Do Beirim Daoib An Craob.

CONSULT

O'Crean

ANCIENTLY : O'Croidheain, O'Croidheagain

VARIANTS : Crehan, Cregan, Creegan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Crean	27	KER, COR, WEX.
Crehan	17	GAL.
Cregan	20	LIM, MEA.
Creegan	13	LEI, SLI.

ORIGINS : A sept occupying Co. Donegal and Sligo of the Cenel Eoghain.

The Crehan spelling is found in Co. Clare as well as Galway.

Creen, or Curreen, is a sept of Co. Kerry in Munster.

The name is also cited as numerous in Mayo & Sligo in earlier days.

The coat of arms cited are of the Donegal sept.

Coat of Arms: Argent a wolf rampant sable between three human hearts gules.

Crest: A demi-wolf rampant sable holding between the paws a human heart or.

CONSULT

O'Crowley

ANCIENTLY : O'Cruadhlaoich

VARIANTS : Cronouge, Krowley.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Crowley	161	CORK

ORIGINS : A few Crowleys are found in Connaught as well.

The family is a branch of the MacDermots of Co. Roscommon.

Coat of Arms: Argent a boar passant azure between three crosses crosslet gules.

CONSULT

A Defeated Clan. Michael Crowley. (C) 1920.

O'Crowley Pedigree. Carew Mss. and other sources. (C) 1920.

The O'Crowleys of Coill t-Sealbhaigh. John T. Collins. (C) 1953.

O'Cullane

ANCIENTLY : O'Coileain, O'Cuilleain

VARIANTS : Collins

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Collins	352	COR, LIM, DUB, GAL, ANT, KER, CLA.

ORIGINS : Also an English name, it is none the less one of the most prominent Irish surnames.

Known as lords of the barony of Connello until they settled in Cork in the 13th century.

Coat of Arms: Argent two lions rampant combatant proper.

Crest: A pelican vulning herself wings elevated proper.

CONSULT

O'Cullen

ANCIENTLY : O'Cuilinn, O'Cuileamhain

VARIANTS : Culloon, Culhoun, Cullion, Quillen

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Cullen	203	DUB, WEX.

ORIGINS : Several small septs have corrupted their name to this spelling.

Coat of Arms: Gules on a chevron between three dexter hands erect couped at the wrist argent a garb of the first between two trefoils slipt vert.

Crest: A mermaid with comb and mirror all proper.

CONSULT

The Early Cullen Family. Peadar Mac Suibhne. Reportorium, I. 1958.

O'Cullinan

ANCIENTLY : O'Cuileannain

VARIANTS : Cullinan (Co. Clare), Cullinane (Cork), Quillinane (Waterford)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Cullinane	40	COR, WAT.
Cullinan	19	CLA.
Quillinan	5	TIP.

ORIGINS : The sept of Co. Cork was in the barony of Barryroe.

Coat of Arms: Argent a stag springing gules attired and unguled vert, in base a dexter hand couped at the wrist proper.

Chiefs with the Donnegans in Co. Cork, in the barony of Orrery. They were hereditary physicians of the province of Munster. They are cited as well, as well as very learned men of Ormond.

CONSULT

Cummins

ANCIENTLY : O'Coimin

VARIANTS : Kimmons, Commane, Comyn, Commons
(English Forms: Cumming, Cummings, Hurley)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Cummings	20	ANT.
Cumming	77	DUB, COR, TIP.
Commins	20	MAY, WAT.
Commons	14	KIL, GAL, MAY.

ORIGINS : The Norman family of the name is recorded in Co. Clare.

The Commons spelling is standard in Co. Wexford, Cummins and Cumming in Co. Cork.

The O'Commins are cited early in Co. Roscommon.

The English and the Normans both have families which have corrupted to the above spellings (Normon = Comyn).

CONSULT

Notes on the Comyn Pedigree. David Comyn. (M) III. 1913.

O'Cunigan

ANCIENTLY : O'Connagain, MacCuinneagain

VARIANTS : MacCunigan, Cunningham, Conyngham.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Cunningham	215	DOW, ANT, DUB, GAL, ROS, COR.
Counihan	8	KER.

ORIGINS : Cunningham is actually an English form which the Irish have corrupted their spelling to. In Ulster it is most likely of Scottish origin. In Connacht more likely Irish.

CONSULT

Mac Cunneen

ANCIENTLY : O'Coinin, O'Cuineain

VARIANTS : Cunneen, Rabbitt, Kenning, Kenyon, Kinane.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Cunnane	18	MAY, ROS.
Kinane	18	TIP.
Rabbitt	13	

ORIGINS : Several septs use this name. Rabbitt is an English mis-translation.

CONSULT

Cunningham

ANCIENTLY : O'Connagain, MacCuinneagain

VARIANTS : Cunnigan (early spelling), Kinningham, Cunnighan, Conyngham.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Cunningham	215	DOW, ANT, DUB, GAL, ROS, COR.

ORIGINS : In Counties Down and Antrim the name is of Scottish origin. In Galway and Roscommon it is of Gaelic origins. The previously mentioned counties are the most populated with the name.

Of the Gaelic septs, one springs from Fiachra, brother of Niall of the 9 Hostages in Co. Sligo. The other sept is of Ui Maine (Counties Galway and Roscommon).

The Scottish family is said to have come originally from Ireland, but can be traced to Scotland as early as the 11th century.

No Irish coat of arms on record, although a Scottish arms exists for the name.

Well known individuals of the name: John Cunningham (1729-73) - Irish poet and actor.

CONSULT

An Old Ulster House and the People who Lived in it.
M. Lenox-Conyngham. Dundalk. 1946.

Mac Curley

ANCIENTLY : Mac Thoirdealbhaigh (?)

VARIANTS : Kerley, Turley (Terry?), Corley, Kirley.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Curley	36	ROS, GAL, DUB.

ORIGINS : Centered in Co. Galway and Co. Roscommon, the name is said to be a variant spelling of Turley, found in the province of Ulster.

The ancient spelling cited means, "son of Turlough," hence the possible translation to Terry or Terence.

Ballymacurley and Curleys Island are both found in Roscommon.

CONSULT

O'Curran

ANCIENTLY : O'Currain

VARIANTS : Currane (Co. Kerry), Kirrane, Curreen.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Curran	169	DON, DUB, WAT, GAL.
Currane	19	KER.
Kirrane	8	MAY.

ORIGINS : Prior to the 1890 index, the name was found in Waterford, Tipperary, Galway, and Leitrim, as well as Kerry and Donegal. (17th century.)

The name is numerous throughout Ireland, with Co. Waterford being an early center for the name (1659). A surprisingly scarce amount of documentation on origins is available.

CONSULT

John Philpot Curran and His Family. D.F. Moore. (D) XV. 1959.

O'Curry

ANCIENTLY : O'Comhraidhe

VARIANTS : Corry (Corra?), Corree, Corrie, Cory, Currie.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Curry	60	ANT.
Currie	15	
Corry	44	ANT, CLA.

ORIGINS : O'Curry, of Clan Torna, was cited as chief in the barony of Kerricurrehy, Co. Cork, according to O'Heerin.

The O'Corrys (O'Curry) are cited in the barony of Tullygarvey in Co. Cavan near Cootehill.

A minor sept (Corry) was found in Co. Cork. A prominent sept was also located in Co. Clare.

CONSULT

Mac Curtin

ANCIENTLY : Mac Cruitin, Mac Cuirtin

VARIANTS : Curtin

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Curtin	69	COR, LIM, CLA, KER.

ORIGINS : Anciently from Co. Clare as recorded by the Four Masters (near Ennistymon).

Coat of Arms: Vert in front of a lance in pale or a stag trippant argent attired or between three crosses crosslet or, two and one, and as many trefoils slipt argent one and two.

Crest: In front of two lances in saltire argent headed or an Irish harp sable.

CONSULT

Cusack

ANCIENTLY : de Cussac

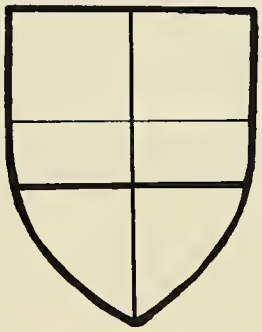
VARIANTS : Cusac, Cusic, Cusick, Cussac, Cussack, Cussick, Kissick.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Cusack	46	LIM, CAV, CLA.

ORIGINS : Arrived in Ireland after the Norman Invasions (1172). Held a prominent position in the pale until the 1600's. Support of the Gaelic people eventually forced the forfeiture of these estates.

Coat of Arms: Per pale or and azure, a fess counterchanged.



CONSULT

Dalton

ANCIENTLY : D'Alton

VARIANTS : Dawtin

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Dalton	75	DUB, WAT, LIM, KIL, WES.

ORIGINS : Of Norman origin. The chief of the name was called, "Lord of Rathconrath" (in Westmeath). Early on they settled in Westmeath in which their lands were known as Dalton's country.

Coat of Arms: Azure a lion rampant guardant argent charged on the shoulder with a crescent sable between five fleur-de-lis or.

CONSULT

O'Daly

ANCIENTLY : O'Dalaigh

VARIANTS : Daily, Dawley, Dawly, Dayley, Dealy, Deely.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Daly	381	COR, DUB, KER, GAL, KIN.

ORIGINS : One of the greatest Gaelic literary families over the centuries. The name has spread quite widely.

The O'Dalys were the hereditary poets and antiquaries of the McCarthy Mor, in Co. Kerry.

They were recorded in the parish of Kilcrohane, in the barony of West Carbery, Co. Cork as bards to the O'Mahoneys and Carews as well.

The O'Dalys are also recorded in the Burren area of Co. Clare, as well as in the barony of Clonlonan in Westmeath.

Hereditary bards to the O'Reillys in Co. Cavan.

Apparantly settling in Connaught in the 12th century, they held large tracts of land in Galway and Roscommon. These O'Dalys are a branch of the O'Donells of Donegal.

Coat of Arms: Per fess argent and or a lion rampant per fess sable and gules, in chief two dexter hands couped at the wrist of the last.

CONSULT

Families of Daly of Galway with Tabular Pedigrees. Martin J. Blake. (G) 1926-27.

The O'Dalys of Muintuavara: a story of a bardic family. Dominick Daly. Dublin. 1821.

History of the O'Dalys. E.E. O'Daly. New York. 1937.

Darcy

ANCIENTLY : O'Dorchaidhe

VARIANTS : Dorcy, D'Arcy (Norman)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

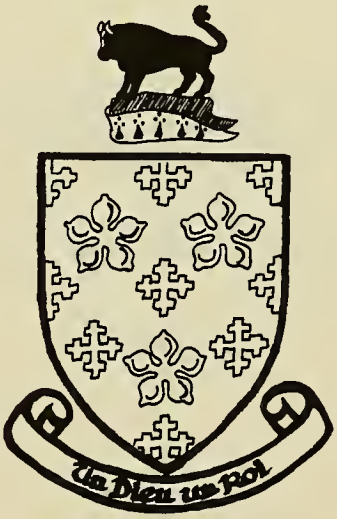
Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Darcy	86	DUB, TIP.

ORIGINS : Both native Irish and Norman families bear this surname. Munster and Connaught is the most likely location for the Gaelic families. The tribes of Galway include a Gaelic Darcy family.

Coat of Arms: Azure semee of crosses crosslet and three cinquefoils argent.

Crest: On a chapeau gules turned up ermine a bull sable armed or.

Motto: Tin Dieu Un Roi



CONSULT

An Historical Sketch of the Family of D'Arcy from the Norman Conquest to the year 1853. 1882.

Complete Pedigree of the English and Irish Branches of the D'Arcy Family. London. 1901.

Tubular Pedigrees of the D'Arcy Family. (G) 1917-18.

O'Dargan

ANCIENTLY : O'Deargain

VARIANTS : Dorgan, Dorgin, Dargan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Dargan	11	DUB.

ORIGINS : "Dorgan" is a common spelling in Co. Cork. Note the placename there of "Ballydorgan."

The Dargan spelling is more common to Leinster.

Well known individual of the name: Edmund Strother Dargan (1809-1979) - A judge in the U.S.A.

CONSULT

O'Davoren

ANCIENTLY : O'Duibhdabhoireann

VARIANTS :

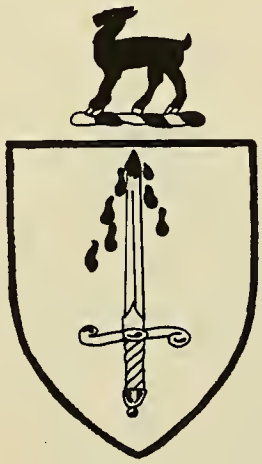
RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties

ORIGINS : Ancient brehons of Corcomroe/Burren area (Co. Clare). Also mentioned near Corofin. Very few in number today.

Coat of Arms: Argent a sword erect in pale distilling drops of blood proper pommel and hilt or.

Crest: A hind statant proper.



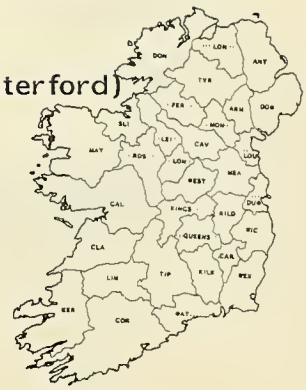
CONSULT

The O'Davorens of Cahermacnaghten, Burren, Co. Clare.
Dr. George U. Macnamara. (N) 1912-13.

O'Dea

ANCIENTLY : O'Deaghaidh

VARIANTS : Daw (possibly English), O'Dee (Tipperary-Waterford)



RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

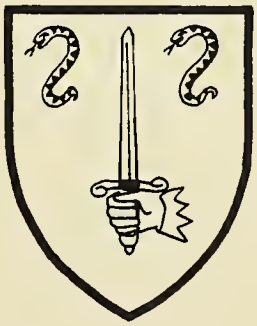
Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Dea	10	
O'Dea	35	CLA, LIM.

ORIGINS : Several castles occupied by the family remain in Co. Clare, and in this county the barony of Inchiquin, they were cited as chiefs.

Also found more anciently by O'Heerin as chiefs in the barony of Slieveardagh, Co. Tipperary.

Concentrated near their ancient lands yet today. Tully O'Dea and Dysart O'Dea are old placenames in the regions.

Coat of Arms: Argent a dexter hand lying fessways couped at the wrist cuffed indented azure holding a sword in pale all proper, in chief two snakes embowed vert.



CONSULT

O'Delany

ANCIENTLY : O'Dubhshlaine

VARIANTS : Delane, Dulany, Dillane.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Delaney (93) Delany (65)	158	DUB, QUE, TIP, KIL.

ORIGINS : The 1659 Census shows primary residence in Queens County (Leix County) and Kilkenny County.

CONSULT

Dermody

ANCIENTLY : O'Diarmada, MacDiarmada.

VARIANTS : MacDermot, Darmody, Dermoody.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Dermody	9	

ORIGINS : Dispersed throughout Counties Cavan, Westmeath, Kilkenny, and Galway, the origins of this name are difficult to trace.

Dermod is given as a variant spelling of Dermott in several instances. Hence, the possible original spelling of MacDermott or O'Dermott.

O'Duibhdiorma as (O) and (Mac) Dermott are cited by O'Dugan in the barony of Inishowen, and he states the family to be distinct from the MacDermotts of Moylurg in Roscommon.

MacDermotts are also cited as chiefs in the barony of Tirerill, in Co. Sligo.

CONSULT

Mac Dermot

ANCIENTLY : MacDiarmada

VARIANTS : Coolavin, Kilronan, Kermode.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Dermott	6	LEI.
McDermott	189	ROS, DUB, DON, GAL, TYR.

ORIGINS : A name with several septs in the province of Connaught.

1. O'Duibhdiorma (O'Dermott or MacDermott) - Chiefs of Bredach in the barony of Inisowen, along the west bank of Lough Foyle.
2. MacDermott - Prince of Moylurg in Co. Roscommon (and later prince of Coolavin). Their lands include: (a) The barony of Boyle in Co. Roscommon, (b) The barony of Tirerrill in Co. Sligo, and in, (c) Co. Mayo, Clan Duain at Castlebar.

Hereditary marshals of Connaught, their chief castle was on the Rock of Lough Key on an island near Boyle, Co. Roscommon. Their large estates were confiscated by Cromwell, but the McDermott remained as prince of Coolavin, with some holdings.

Coat of Arms: Argent on a chevron gules between three boars' heads erased azure tusked and bristled or an many cross crosslets of the last.

Crest: A demi-lion rampant azure holding in the dexter paw a sceptre crowned or.

Motto: Honor Probataque Virtus.

Honor et Virtus.

CONSULT

O'Devine

ANCIENTLY : O'Daimhin

VARIANTS : Davin, Devane, Devin (Louth), Divine.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Devine	81	TYR, DUB, ROS.
Devane	16	KER.
Devany	44	MAY, GAL, LEI.

ORIGINS : Chief of the name was known as Lord of Tirkennedy in Co. Fermanagh.

Co. Tyrone appears to be most populated with descendants in more modern times, along with Co. Fermanagh.

O'Devine is cited in 1066 as Co-arb of Derry.

CONSULT

O'Devlin

ANCIENTLY : O'Doibhilin

VARIANTS : Develin

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Devlin	112	ANT, TYR, DUB, ARM, LOND.

ORIGINS : Known as Lords of Munterdevlin, in Tyrone.

The name earlier appears in Co. Sligo and is apparently of separate origins from the Tyrone sept.

The O'Devlins are mentioned as "Chiefs of Muintir Devli," by Lough Neagh on the Derry/Tyrone border in several instances. Also cited as a chief clan among others in possession of Louth.

O'Dobhalen (or O'Devlin) is mentioned as a "Chief in Corran" as well.

CONSULT

The O'Devlins of Tyrone: The Story of an Irish Sept. J.C. Develin. Rutland, VT. 1938.

Dillon

lon

ANCIENTLY : Anglo-Norman Origins

VARIANTS : Dillane, Dillion, Dologhan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Dillion	117	DUB, LIM, ANT, GAL.

ORIGINS : Arriving in Ireland with the Norman invasions in the 12th century, the Dillon name has been prominent in Ireland ever since. Cited as settling in Galway in the 12th and 13th century.

In Ulster we find MacDuilechain or O'Duibhleachain as chief in the barony of Castlereagh, by Kinelarty. This sept could have anglicized the name to Dillon and they were of earlier origins than the Norman families cited above.

Locations: Westmeath (Dillions Country). Mayo.

A renowned branch settled in France.

An almost indigenous name from Ireland.

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion passant between three crescents gules.

Crest: A demi-lion rampant gules holding in the paws an estoile wavy or.

CONSULT

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

O'Dinneen

ANCIENTLY : O'Duinin

VARIANTS : Downing (Co. Kerry)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

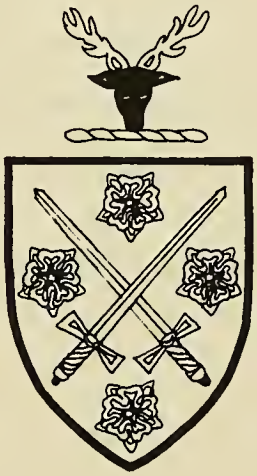
Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Dinneen	22	CORK
Dineen	18	CORK

ORIGINS : Location: Corca Laoidhe, Co. Cork.

Coat of Arms: Azure two swords in saltire points upwards argent pommels and hilts or between four roses or.

Crest: A stag's head proper.

Poets and historians from ancient times in Co. Cork.



CONSULT

O'Dinan

ANCIENTLY : O'Daghnain

VARIANTS : Dynan, O'Dinnahane, Diane.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties

ORIGINS : A completely independent sept from that of Dinneen. Most common today in Co. Cork and Co. Clare.

The 1659 census shows the barony of Carbery in Co. Cork as a center for the name. Also numerous in Co. Clare, particularly in the barony of Tulla.

As O'Dinnahan (or Dinan) they are cited as chiefs in the barony of Owneybeg in Co. Limerick. Further cited by O'Heerin as O'Duinechair (O'Dinnahane, O'Dinan, or Dannaher, given as variants) chief in the baronies of Owney and Owneybeg in the counties of Tipperary and Limerick.

CONSULT

O'Daugherty

ANCIENTLY : O'Dochartaigh

VARIANTS : Dogherty, Dougherty, Doherty.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Doherty	414	DON, MAY, LOND.
Dogherty	27	DON.
O'Doherty	8	

ORIGINS : Known as Lords of Inishowen in the 13th century.

Possibly derived from the word, "dochartach" which means "obstructive."

Well known individuals of the name: Sir Cahir O'Dougherty - Who led an unsuccessful rebellion in 1608 leading to a decline in their power.

Location: Barony of Raphoe, Co. Donegal (anciently).

Coat of Arms - O'Doherty: Argent a stag springing gules, on a chief vert three mullets of the first.

Motto: Ar Ndutcas

CONSULT

The Chamberlains of Nizelrath. Notes on the Allied Families of Clinton, Aston, O'Doherty and Brownlow. T.G.F. Paterson. (L) XI 1947.

O'Dolan

ANCIENTLY : O'Dubhlain, O'Dubhlainn

VARIANTS : Doolan (Dowling)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Doolan (35) Doolin (13)	66	DUB, LOU, COR, TIP.
Dolan	142	FER, ROS, CAV, GAL, LEI, DUB.
Dowling	109	DUB, KIL, QUE.

ORIGINS : Originated in Connaught, being of the Ui Maine.

According to O'Dugan, a sept of the name O'Dolan settled in Co. Cavan and were present in the 12th century.

Earlier recorded (1659 census) in Fermanagh and Roscommon. Cavan and Fermanagh as well as Galway and Roscommon bear the surname in modern times.

CONSULT

Mac Donald

ANCIENTLY :

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McDonald	191	DUB, ANT, CAV, WEX, CAR.
Donald	6	ANT.
Donaldson	33	ANT, ARM.

ORIGINS :

The 2nd most common surname of Scotland, it is also in the top 100 surnames of Ireland. Concentrated in the province of Ulster, the majority of this surname are assumed to be of Scottish origin.

Recorded as the "Earls of Antrim" in Ireland and lords of the Isles in Scotland, they are stated to be descended from the clan Colla (Colla Uais).

Invading and settling in Antrim and Derry in the reign of Elizabeth, the McDonalds drove the MacQuillans from prominence and took possession of the "Glynns" (a district of Dal Riada).

CONSULT

Mac Donlevy

ANCIENTLY : MacDuinnshleibhe

VARIANTS : Dunleavy, Leavy

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Leavy	31	LONG, WES.
Dunleavy	27	MAY, SLI.

ORIGINS : Anciently recorded in Down (12th century) and Antrim, they appear to have moved into Donegal as hereditary physicians to the O'Donnells.

The name is cited in early days as O'Dunnslebi or MacDunnslebi, being King of Uladh.

Principally found in Sligo today.

Coat of Arms: Argent on a mount in base proper a lion gules and a buck of the second rampant combatant supporting a dexter hand couped at the wrist of the third.

Crest: A lion rampant gules.

CONSULT

A Genealogical History of the Dunlevy Family. G.D. Kelley. Columbus, Ohio. 1901.

Mac Donnell

ANCIENTLY : MacDomhnaill

VARIANTS : MacDaniell, McDonald

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McDonnell	247	DUB, MAY, ANT, GAL, COR.
McDonald	191	DUB, ANT, CAV, WEX, CAR.

ORIGINS :

Clare & Connacht

Of the Glen

Three distinct septs:

1. A Scottish Family coming to Ireland in the 13th century serving as gallowglasses. Coming from Argyle originally. Area - Ulster.

2. A Gaelic sept also settled in Ulster coming from Co. Fermanagh originally.

3. Another Gaelic sept originating in Thomand and still found in Co. Clare. Descended from Domhnall (Donal), son of King Murtagh Mor O'Brien. (Anglicized MacDaniell.)

Well known individuals of the name: Francis MacDonnell - (1656-1702) Serving the Wild Geese in Austria.

Alexander MacDonnell - (1798-1835) World Chess Champion, 1833.

CONSULT

The Macdonnells of Tinnakill Castle. Lord Walter Fitzgerald. (K) IV 1903-05.

Chiefs of the Antrim MacDonnells prior to Sorley Boy G.H. (U) VII. 1859.

Notices of the Clan Iar Vor, Clan-Donnell Scots, especially of the Branch Settled in Ireland. George Hill. (U) IX. 1861-62.

Historical Account of the Macdonnells of Antrim. George Hill. Belfast. 1873.

The MacDonnells of Antrim and on the Continent. Micheline Walsh. Dublin. 1960.

Irish Chiefs and Leaders. Rev. Paul Walsh. Dublin. 1960.

O'Donnell

ANCIENTLY : O'Domhnaill (Donal)

VARIANTS : O'Donel, Danly, Donald, Donnal.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Donnell	294	DON, MAY, GAL.

ORIGINS : Three notable septs:

1. Tirconaill (Co. Donegal) Sept is the most well known. Descended from Niall of the nine hostages. Centered in Kilmacrenan, Co. Donegal.
2. Corcabaskin (Co. Clare)
3. Ui' Maine (Co. Galway)

Coat of Arms: Or issuing from the sinister side of the shield an arm fessways vested azure cuffed argent holding in the hand proper a passion cross gules.

Well known individual of the name: Hugh Roe O'Donnell (Red Hugh) - 1571-1602. Chief of the name and well noted in Irish history.

CONSULT

The Life of Aodh Ruadh O'Domhnaill. Rev. Paul Walsh. Dublin. 1947-57.

John O'Donnell of Baltimore;...and Descendants. E.T. Cook. London. 1934.

O'Donnellan

ANCIENTLY : O'Domhnallain

VARIANTS : Donlan, Donlon

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Donnellan	9	CLA, MAY.
Donelan	16	GAL.
Donlan	13	GAL.
Donlon	14	LONG.

ORIGINS : Of Ui' Maine in Co. Galway (i.e. see Ballydonnellan in Co. Galway), descended from Domhnallain, lord of Clan Breasail.

Known as great ollams (poets) of early Ireland.

Coat of Arms: Argent an oak tree eradicated proper, on the sinister side a slave sable chained to the stem gules.

Crest: On a mount proper a lion rampant or.

Motto: Omni Violentia Major

CONSULT

O'Donnelly

ANCIENTLY : O'Donnghaile

VARIANTS : Dannelly, Donaldson, Donelly, Donely, Donlon, Donly, Donnally, Donnely, Donnolly.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Donnelly	240	ANT, TYR, ARM, DUB.

ORIGINS : Descended from Donnghaile O'Neil (of Niall the Great). Originally in Donegal, moving towards Ballydonelly in Co. Tyrone. Also in Co. Antrim near Co. Tyrone.

There was also a minor sept of different origin from Co. Tipperary.

Coat of Arms: Argent two lions rampant combatant supporting a dexter hand couped apaumee gules, in base the sea therein a salmon naiant proper.

CONSULT

Mac Donogh, Donaghy

ANCIENTLY : MacDonnchadha

VARIANTS : MacDonough, MacDonagh

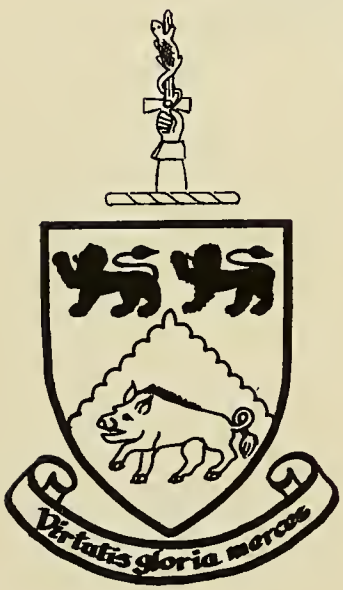
RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McDonagh	174	GAL, ROS, MAY.
Donaghy	49	ANT, LOND, TYR.

ORIGINS : One sept in Co. Cork were known as Lords of Duhallow. These were a branch of the MacCarthys.

A branch of the MacDermots. Strong in Sligo and Roscommon. Lords of Corran (Tireril).

The spelling Donaghy arises in Co. Tyrone and Co. Derry.



Coat of Arms: Per chevron invected or and vert, in chief two lions passant guardant gules in base a boar passant argent armed and bristled of the first langued of the third.

Crest: A dexter arm erect couped at the elbow vested azure cuffed argent holding in the hand a sword erect entwined with a lizard all proper.

Motto: Virtultis Gloria Merces

In Co. Cork, the family castle was that of Kanturk.

CONSULT

The Lords of Ella: The Macdonoghs of Duhallow. W.F. Dennehy. (C) III. 1894.

O'Donoghue

ANCIENTLY : Donnchadh

VARIANTS : Donaghue, Donahue, Donahoe, Donojo, Donoughoe.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Donoghue	97	KER, COR.
Donohoe	162	DUB, LONG, CAV, GAL.
O'Donoghue	39	KER, COR.

ORIGINS : The name O'Donoghue springs from the former Gaelic name of Donnchadh, which was a personal name. Several completely separate individuals named Donnchadh (Strong Warrior) became founders of the O'Donoghue name in many different areas of Ireland. The O'Donoghues have been, and are today, one of the largest family name groups in the country.

The O'Donoghues of Co. Kerry were the most powerful family of this great name. A great Celtic sept who traces its descent from Oilioll Olium (234 A.D.), and the Eugenien line, taking their name from Donnchadh in 1063. Their ancient clan names were Cinel Laoghaire and Clan tSealbach.

Originally from the Desmond area of Co. Cork they were driven into Co. Kerry by the McCarthys and O'Mahoneys. There they became Lords of all the area surrounding Killarney. Cathal founded the O'Donoghue Mor (of Lough Lein) line, which became extinct in 1582. His brother Connor, founded the O'Donoghues of the Glen, who occupied the Glenflesk area. The lands of the O'Donoghues were among the last to be taken by Cromwells invasion, and in fact, the O'Donoghues of the Glen resisted and retained their title as such.

The ancient burial place of the O'Donoghues can be found near the ruins of Ross Castle and Agadoe Hill. Traditionally known as proud fighting men, their memory is well documented in history.

Other O'Donoghue septs are found in: Cavan, Galway, Ossory and Tipperary.

Coat of Arms: Vert two foxes rampant combatant argent, on a chief of the last an eagle volant sable.

Crest: An arm in armour embowed holding a sword the blade entwined with a serpent all proper.

CONSULT

The O'Donoghue Book. Irish Genealogical Foundation. 1981.

Dooher, Dougher

ANCIENTLY : O'Dubhchair (black dear)

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties

ORIGINS : A rare name found in Co. Donegal and North Connacht.

Locations: Co. Donegal and Northern Connacht.

Perhaps a varient of Doherty, which also is of record in Donegal, but this is pure speculation.

CONSULT

O'Donovan

ANCIENTLY : O'Donnabhain

VARIANTS : Dingavan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Donovan	211	CORK
O'Donovan	11	COR, LIM.

ORIGINS : Forced to move from Limerick into Cork after the Anglo-Norman invasion.

A branch of this sept is also in Kilkenny and Wexford.

Well known individual of the name: Jeremiah (Rossa) O'Donovan (1831-1915) - A Fenian who was imprisoned and later went to America.

Coat of Arms: Argent issuing from the sinister side of the shield a cubit dexter arm vested gules cuffed of the first the hand grasping a scian in pale the blade entwined with a serpent all proper.

Crest: A falcon alighting or.

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

CONSULT

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

O'Dooley

ANCIENTLY : O'Dubhlaich

VARIANTS : Dooley

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Dooley	60	DUB, KIN.

ORIGINS : Recorded as Lords of Furtullagh by the Four Masters in the 11th and 12th centuries in Westmeath. Spread to Leix and Offaly at a later date.

The chief of the name was the official inaugurator of O'Carroll, King of Ely.

The 1659 Census shows the name most common in Leix and Offaly. Offaly remains the center of the name today.

CONSULT

O'Doran

ANCIENTLY : O'Deoradhain

VARIANTS : O'Deoran, Dorrian

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Doran	97	DUB, WEX, DOW, ARM.

ORIGINS : Known as "Brehons of Leinster." Anciently one of the "7 Septs of Leix," many of whom were transplanted to Co. Kerry in the early 17th century.

Centered at Chappell, Co. Wexford in the 16th century. Note the placename Doransland in Co. Wexford.

Coat of Arms: Per pale sable and argent a boar passant counterchanged, on a chief azure three mullets of the second.

Crest: Out of a ducal coronet or a lion's head proper.

CONSULT

O'Dowd

ANCIENTLY : O'Dubhda

VARIANTS : Dowda, Dowds, Doody, (Duddy in Co. Derry)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Dowd	84	ROS, DUB, KER, GAL.
O'Dowd	15	SLI.

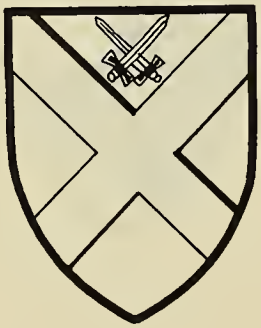
ORIGINS : Known as princes of Ui Fiachra, they are said to have been inaugurated on the hill of Ardnarea, near Ballina. The cite is also said to have been on the hill of Mullaghcarn, near Killala. They were chiefs in Mayo and Sligo. Other spellings cited are O'Dowde and O'Dooda.

They were said to be of great size and strength physically (in Mayo and Sligo). Their holdings in Sligo were lost with the coming of Cromwell.

The name is found in Co. Kerry as "Doody" and in Co. Derry a sept by the name of "Duddy" exists.

Several clergymen in Killala Parish.

Coat of Arms: Vert a saltire or, in chief two swords in saltire points upwards the dexter surmounted of the sinister argent pommels and hilts or.



CONSULT

O'Dowling

ANCIENTLY : Dunlaing (?)

VARIANTS : Doolen, Doolin, Dooling, Dooly, Dowlan, Dowley, Dowlin.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Dowling	109	DUB, KIL, QUE, LEI.

ORIGINS : The leaders of this family were transplanted to Tarbet in 1609 (Kerry-Limerick).

The original O'Dowlings Country ran along the River Barrow in Leix. Later they came to occupy Co. Carlow, and Co. Kilkenny as well. The place name Ballydowling is even frequent in Wicklow.

Well known individuals of the name: Most Rev. Austin Dowling (1868-1938) - Archbishop, St. Pauls, U.S.A.

Thady Dowling (1544-1628) - Irish Grammarian.

Coat of Arms: Argent a holly tree eradicated proper, on a chief azure a lion passant between two trefoils slipt or.

Crest: A lion's head erased azure collared gemelles or.

One of the original "7 Septs of Leix."

CONSULT

Women of the Ui Dunlainge of Leinster. Margaret E. Dobbs. Ir. Gen. I. 1940.

O'Downey, Mac Eldowney

ANCIENTLY : O'Dunadhaigh

VARIANTS : Downing, Dawney, Doona, Gildowny.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Downey	91	COR, KER, ANT, GAL, LIM.

ORIGINS : In the Co. Galway area they are on record as lords of Sil Anmchadha, anciently.

In Ulster, Co. Derry is the home of the MacEldowney spelling which is of separate origins.

The Luachair sept springs from the border area of Cork, Kerry, and Limerick. This is the most populous of modern times.

Well known individual of the name: Most Rev. Richard Downey (1881-1953) - Archbishop of Liverpool.

CONSULT

A History of the Protestant Downeys of the Counties of Sligo, Leitrim, Fermanagh and Donegal and their Descendants. Cairncross C. Downey. New York. 1931.

Doyle

ANCIENTLY : O'Dubhghaill

VARIANTS : Doil, Dooal, Dyle.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Doyle	514	DUB, WEX, WIC, CAR, KER, COR.

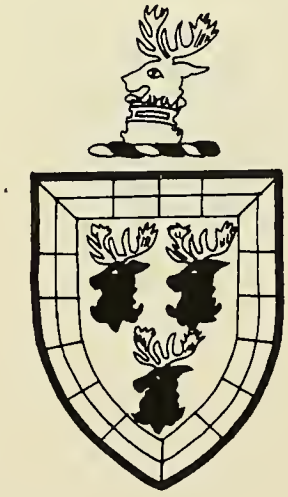
ORIGINS : The 12th most popular surname in Ireland. The name appears as early as the 10th century and is probably of Norse origin due to the main areas of occupations being near the coast, and the word Dubhghall which meant Scandinavian in earlier days.

Well known individuals of the name: James Doyle (1786-1834) - Bishop of Kidare and Leighlim.

Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) - Sherlock Holmes Creator.

Coat of Arms: Argent three bucks heads erased gules attired or, within a border compony counter compony or and azure.

Crest: A buck's head couped gules attired argent ducally gorged or.



CONSULT

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

O'Driscoll

ANCIENTLY : O'Drisceoil (Eidersceoil)

VARIANTS : Driscall, Driskell, Driskill, Driskol.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Driscoll	121	COR.
O'Driscoll	13	COR.

ORIGINS : Driven from Kerry into Co. Cork by the Sullivans, centering themselves near Baltimore in Cork.

Founders of a Franciscan Monastery at that location in 1460.

Of the Corca Laoidhe clan, descending from Eidersceoil around 910 A.D. (Ross Diocese).

Coat of Arms: Argent an ancient galley sails furled sable.

Crest: A cormorant proper.

CONSULT

The O'Driscolls and other septs of Corca Laidhe. J.M. Burke. (C) 1910.

O'Duffy

ANCIENTLY : O'Dubhthaigh

VARIANTS : Duhig, Doohey, Dowey, (O'Diff=Mayo), O'Duffy

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Duffy	305	MAY, MON, DON, DUB, LOU, ROS.

ORIGINS : One of the top 50 surnames of Ireland. From: (1) Parish of Lower Templecrone, diocese of Raphoe, Co. Donegal; and (2) Connacht (Lissyduffy) and Co. Monaghan, both of which claim origin in eastern Leinster.

Cited as a Leinster clan, and of the same descent at the MacMurroughs (Kings of Leinster). Spoken of as a chief clan of Monaghan in earlier days, the name is most common there today as well.

Also mentioned as a family of note in Galway and Roscommon, several were noted as Archbishops of Tuam and Bishops in Elphin.

Well known individuals of the name: Sir Charles Gavan Duffy (1816-1903) - Prime Minister, Victoria Australia.

CONSULT

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

Clogherici. Rev. P. O'Gallachair. (Clogher) IV. 1960-61.

O'Duggan

ANCIENTLY : O'Dubhagain

VARIANTS : O'Dugan, Doogan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Dugan	20	ANT, DOW, LOND.
Duggan	89	COR, DUB, TIP, WAT.

ORIGINS : Predominant in Co. Tipperary for several hundred years.

Cited as ancient chiefs of Fermoy, Co. Cork, by O'Heerin, as follows:

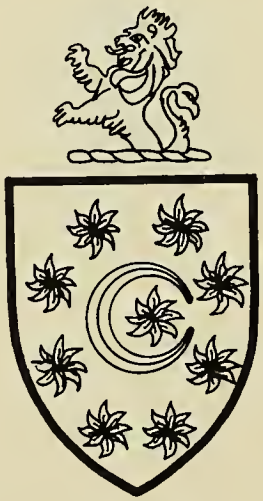
"Chief of Fermoy of well fenced forts,
Is O'Dugan of Dunmannan-
A tribe of Gaels of precious jewels."

O'Heerin also mentions a sept of O'Duibhgan as chiefs in the barony of Shelburne, in Co. Wexford.

O'Duigin is also found in the barony of Tulla, in Co. Clare.

Coat of Arms: Azure a decrescent argent between nine estoiles of eight points or.

Crest: A demi-lion rampant or langued and armed gules.



CONSULT

O'Dunn

ANCIENTLY : O'Duinn, O'Doinn

VARIANTS : Dunne, O'Doyne (now out of favor)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Dunn	51	ULS, ANT, DOW, TYR, LOND.
Dunne	313	DUB, QUE, KIL, KIN, KIL, COR, TIP, ULS, CAV.

ORIGINS : The 27th most common surname of Ireland.

The Dunn spelling predominates in Ulster.

Cited as chief of Ui Riagan, in the barony of Tinnehinch, Queen's County. Also found in the kingdom of Meath as chief of the districts of Tara.

Co. Leix (Queen's County) remains as a center for the Dunn name in modern times.

Well known individuals of the name: Charles Dunn (1799-1872) - A judge in the United States.

Coat of Arms: Azure an eagle displayed or.

Crest: In front of a holly bush proper a lizard passant or.

Motto: Mullac Abu.

CONSULT

History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory. Vol I & II.

Dunne Papers. (Brittas, Co. Wexford) (A.H.) XXX.

O'Dwyer

ANCIENTLY : O'Duibhir

VARIANTS : Dwire, Dwyre.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Dwyer	155	TIP, COR, DUB, KER, LIM, KIL.
O'Dwyer	25	TIP, LIM, CLA.

ORIGINS : The Ancient territory was between Thurles and the borders of Co. Limerick.

Main chiefs in the barony of Kilnamanagh, Co. Tipperary in ancient times. Prominent in the military, the name is found as an admiral in the Russian military, and as a governor of Belgrade with the rank of General.

Location: Kilnamanagh, Co. Tipperary.

Well known individual of the name: William O'Dwyer (b. 1890) - From Co. Mayo became mayor of New York and prominent U.S. Ambassador.

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion rampant gules between three ermine spots.

Crest: A hand couped at the wrist and erect grasping a sword all proper.

CONSULT

The O'Dwyers of Kilnamanagh. Sir M. O'Dwyer. London. 1933.

Mac Egan

ANCIENTLY : MacAodhagain

VARIANTS : Keegan, Egan, Hegane

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

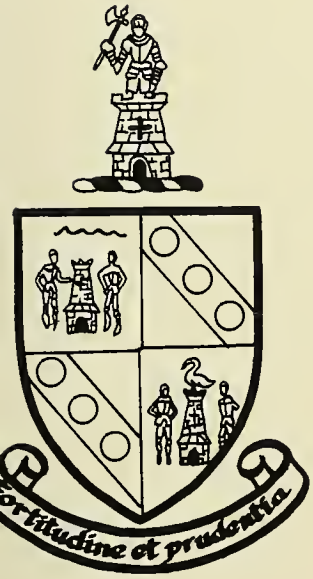
Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Egan	171	GAL, DUB, KIN, MAY, ROS, MUN.
Keegan	95	DUB, ROS, WIC, LEI.

ORIGINS : A great brehon family, including being brehons to the O'Connor Faly.

The Mac prefix has fallen into general disuse.

Location: Ui' Maine, concentrating in Ormond.

Well known individual of the name: Most Rev. Michael Egan (1761-1814) - Bishop of Philidelphia.



Coat of Arms: Quarterly - 1st, Gules a tower argent supported on eigher side by a man in complete armour each holding in the interior hand a battle-aze all proper, in chief a snake fessways or; 2nd and 3rd, Or on a bend vert three plates; 4th, As first quarter but on the tower a swan proper.

Crest: A tower argent issuant from the top a demi-man in armour couped at the knees holding in the dexter hand a battle-aze all proper.

Motto: Fortitudine ot Prudentia

CONSULT

The Tribes and Customs of Hy Many.

Two Irish Brehon Scripts with Notes on the MacEgan Family.
Martin F. Blake. (G) 1909-10.

Mac Elroy

ANCIENTLY : Mac Giolla Rua

VARIANTS : MacGilroy, Kilroy, Gilroy, (MacGilleroy-Leitrim)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Kilroy	15	MAY, ROS, SLI.
Gilroy	16	LEI, MAY.
McIlroy	40	ANT, DOW, FER, LOND.
McElroy	39	

ORIGINS : Ballymackilroy place names are also found in Tyrone and Antrim.

The 1659 census records numerous families in Fermanagh and Leitrim as well.

The name stems from MacGiolla Rua, meaning son of the red (haired?) youth?

CONSULT Annals of the Four Masters

Mac Enchroe

ANCIENTLY : MacConchradha

VARIANTS : Crowe (MacCrowe)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McEnroe	9	CAV.
Crowe	68	ANT, TIP, CLA.

ORIGINS : Crowe is a common English name as well, found mainly in Ulster.

Modern day usage has changed in general to Crowe.

Well known individuals of the name: O'Beirne Crowe of Cong (Galway) - One of the first professors of Queens (University) College, Galway.

Coat of Arms: Argent on a mount vert an oak tree proper, a canton gules charged with an antique Irish crown or.

Crest: On a mount vert an Irish wolfhound argent collared gules.

CONSULT

Mac Eniry

ANCIENTLY : OhInneirghe

VARIANTS : Henry, Fitzhenry, Henery

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McHenry	14	ANT, LOND, LIM.
McEniry	5	ANT, LOND, LIM.
Henry	132	ANT, SLI, TYR.

ORIGINS : Henry (Henery) - O'hInneirghe - Chief of Cullentra (Co. Tyrone.)

Fitzhenry - Of Norman descent found in Co. Wexford and Connacht.

As a corruption of MacEnery in Co. Limerick.

Much confusion may arise due to the corruption of several different surnames assuming each others form.

Coat of Arms: Argent an eagle displayed vert.

Crest: A falcon close belled proper.

CONSULT

Mac Evoy

ANCIENTLY : MacFhiodhbhuidhe (Mac-ee-vwee)

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McEvoy	99	DUB, LOU, ARM, QUE.
McElwee	7	DON, LOND.
McVeigh	68	ANT, DOW.

ORIGINS : Location: Leix (Queens), transplanted to Kerry, 1609 A.D.

One of the Seven Septs of Leix. (Mountrath and Raheen Parish.)

Earlier known as chiefs in the barony of Moygish in Co. Westmeath.

Other septs which corrupted their spelling to this format:

1. MacGiolla Buidhe (MacElwee & MacGilloway) Co. Donegal and Co. Derry.
2. Mac anbheatha (MacVeagh) in Oriel.

Coat of Arms: Per fess azure and per pale or and ermine a fess gules issuant therefrom a demi-lion argnet, in the dexter base a dester hand couped at the wrist of the fourth.

Crest: A cubit arm erect proper vested gules cuffed erminois in the hand a sword proper.

CONSULT

Fagan

ANCIENTLY : Of Norman Origin. O'Faodhagain

VARIANTS : Fagin, Feagan, Feagon, Fegan, Feghan, Feighan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Fagan	48	LEI, DUB.

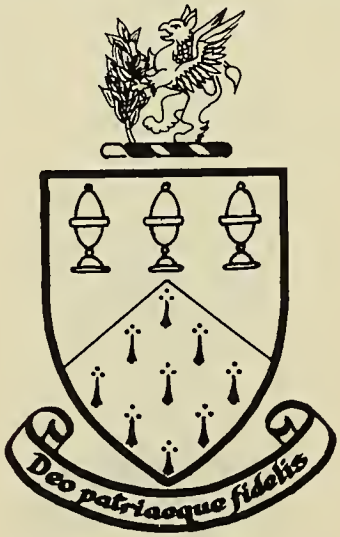
ORIGINS : Early records show Feltrim, Co. Dublin (1250 A.D.) as an area of residence.

Co. Kerry Fagans served France in the 1700's and are documented there.

A Gaelic surname O'Faodhagain, is also reportedly anglicized to this spelling as well.

Coat of Arms: Per chevron gules and ermine, in chief three covered cups or.

Crest: A griffin argent winged and tufted or supporting in the talons an olive branch vert fructed or.



Pedigree on the Fagan Family. Feltrim, Co. Dublin. (Ir. B.)

CONSULT

Catholic Families of the Pale (Fitzwilliam of Merrion, Talbot de Malahide Fagan of Feltrim, Plunkett of Portmarnock). John Kingston. (Reportorium) II. 1958.

O'Fahy

ANCIENTLY : O'Fathaigh

VARIANTS : Fahey, Vahey, Faghy, Foy.

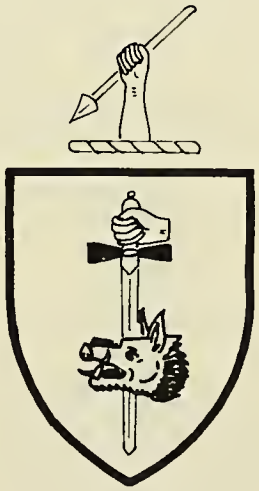
RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Fahy	72	GAL, TIP, MAY.
Fahey	47	

ORIGINS : A Ui Maine Sept. Traditionally centered in Loughrea, Galway. (Note the place name Fahysvillage.)

Coat of Arms: Azure a hand couped at the wrist fessways in chief proper holding a sword paleways argent pommel and hilt or point downwards pierced through a boar's head erased of the last.

Crest: A naked arm erect couped below the elbow holding a broken spear all proper point downwards or.



CONSULT

O'Fallon

ANCIENTLY : O'Fallamhain (O'Faolain?)

VARIANTS : Falloon (Co. Armagh), Fallen, Fallin.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Fallon	78	ROS, GAL.
Falloon	12	ARM.

ORIGINS : Recorded as the chiefs of the area now comprising Camma and Dysart near Athlone in Westmeath. They were later driven into Co. Roscommon across the Shannon River. The chief of the name resided at Milltown Castle.

A traditional castle exists in Dysart Parish to this day.

Anciently a sept was also found in Meath.

Recorded as chiefs of Clann Udach by the Four Masters.

Well known individual of the name: James O'Fallon (1749-1794) - Irish born officer in the American War of Independence.

Coat of Arms: Gules a greyhound rampant argent holding between the forepaws a tilting spear point to the dexter or.

Crest: A demi-greyhound salient argent.

CONSULT

O'Farrell

ANCIENTLY : O'Fearghaill

VARIANTS : Farral

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Farrell	311	DUB, LONG, LOU, MEA, WES, ROS.
O'Farrell	19	

ORIGINS : Being the Lords of Annaly in Co. Longford, two septs existed:

1. O'Farrell Boy (buidhe = yellow).
2. O'Farrell Bane (ban = white or fair).

It is also believed that the county as well as the town derived its name from O'Farrells Fortress which was Longphuirt Ui Fhearghaill.

One O'Ferrall family served in the Irish Brigades of France and settled in Picardy. (Descendants of Ceadagh O'Farrall of Annaly.)

Coat of Arms: Vert a lion rampant or.

Crest: On a ducal coronet or a greyhound springing sable.

CONSULT

O'Farrelly

ANCIENTLY : O'Faircheallaigh

VARIANTS : Farely, Farelly, Ferrely, Ferly.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Farrelly	69	CAV, MEA, DUB.

ORIGINS : Ernaghs of Drumlane, Co. Cavan.

The sept centered at Knockainy, Co. Limerick has apparently disapeared in modern times.

The varient spelling "Farley" is a corruption into a well known English surname.

Well known individual of the name: Cardinal Farley (1842-1918) - Archbishop of New York.

CONSULT → Topographical poems by O'Heerin.

O'Feeney

ANCIENTLY : O'Fidhne, O'Finannaidhe

VARIANTS : Feeny, Finny.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Feeney	46	SLI, MAY, GAL.
Feeny	26	GAL, ROS.

ORIGINS : Ballyfeeney place names are found in Roscommon.

The O'Feeney population appears less numerous than in the past.

Of Ui Fiachrach, in the province of Connacht, Co. Sligo. The name is also found in Galway (OFidhne) and may be originally from Sligo as well.

The name as found in Roscommon is anciently called O'Fighne.

CONSULT

O'Finn

ANCIENTLY : Derived from "Fionn" meaning "fair"?

VARIANTS : MacFinn, MacFhinn, Maginn

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
O'Finn	111	COR, MAY, DUB, ROS.

ORIGINS : Three septs follow:

1. of Co. Sligo - Chiefs of Calry on Lough Gill. The place name Coolavin (Duil O'bhFinn) is said to mean "the hiding place of the O'Finns."
2. of Co. Galway - Erenaghs of Kilcolgan.
3. of Oriel - Now lost.

The "Mac" prefix appears anciently in Meath.

CONSULT Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

O'Finnegan

ANCIENTLY : O'Finonnagain

VARIANTS : Finegan, Finigan, Finnigan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Finegan	52	MON, GAL, LOU.
Finnegan	39	ARM, CAV.

ORIGINS : Found in the baronies of Ballymoe and Castlereagh, Co. Galway. (Note nearby place names of Ballyfinnegan.)

Anciently recorded in Co. Wicklow as well.

Coat of Arms: Gules two lions rampant combatant argent supporting a sword in pale plade wavy point upwards proper.

Crest: A falcon alighting proper.

The name is also noted more anciently in Mayo and Sligo.

MacGilla-Finnagain is cited as chief of Clan Laithemhain, in the barony of Moycarnon, Co. Roscommon. The spelling was sometimes as Finnucane. They are recorded by O'Dugan.

CONSULT

Fitzgerald

ANCIENTLY : Anglo-Norman Invasions, MacGearailt

VARIANTS : Barron (Kilkenny), Fitzerald, Fitzgerrald.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Fitzgerald	33	MUN, COR, LIM, KER, DUB.
Barron	43	ANT, DON, WEX, WAT.
Fitzgibbons	34	LIM.

ORIGINS : Some Notable Septs:

1. Dukes of Leinster of Maynooth (Co. Kildare). Earls of Kildare. Knights of Glin.
2. Earls of Desmond in Munster. Knights of Kerry.
3. Clanmorriss of Co. Mayo.
4. Co. Waterford - Descended from the baron of Burnchurch, Co. Kilkenny.

The Geraldines exploits are far too numerous to cover in this space, they cover virtually all stations in life.

Note that in the coat of arms of Kildare, a conspicious ape that arose from a child being snatched away and returned safely by a tame ape in the 1200's.

All are said to have descended from Gerald, who came with Strongbow in the Anglo-Norman invasions and through his son, Maurice.

Coat of Arms: Argent a saltire gules.

Gerladines, Earls of Desmond. Rev. C.P. Meehan. Dublin. 1852.

The Story of the Slught Edmund from 1485 to 1819. S.M. (K) 1915.

The Fitzgeralds of Lackagh. Lord Walter Fitzgerald. (K) 1892-95.

The Fitzgeralds and the MacKenzies. W. Fitz G. (K) 1896-99.

The Fitzgeralds of Ballyshannon (Co. Kildare), and their Successors Threat. Lord Walter Fitzgerald. (K) 1899-1902.

The History of Morett Castle, and the Fitzgeralds. Lord Walter Fitzgerald. (K) 1803-05.

The Geraldines of Desmond. Canon Hayman. (R) 1885.

CONSULT

The Fitzgeralds of Glenane, Co. Cork. R.G. Fitzgerald-Uniacke. (R) 1912.

The Fitzgeralds, Barons of Offaly. Goddard H. Orpen. (R) 1914.

The Desmonds Castle at Newcastle Oconyll, Co. Limerick. Thomas J. Westropp. (R) 1909.

The Descendants of the Last Earls of Desmond. John O'Donovan. (U) 1858.

The Fitzgeralds of Farnane, Co. Waterford. G. O'C. Redmond. (W) 1912.

Unpublished Geraldine Documents. Rev. Samuel Hayman. (R) 1876-77.

The Fitzgerald Family. Rev. S. Hayman. Dublin. 1870.

Descents of the Earls of Kildare and their Wives. Marquis of Kildare. Dublin. 1869.

Sketch of the History and Descent of the Geraldines of Queen's Co. Mountmellick. 1913.

The Earls of Kildare and Their Ancestors from 1057-1773. Marquis of Kildare. Dublin. 1858-62.

Memoirs of an Irish Family, Fitzgerald of Decies. Mrs. M. MacKenzie. Dublin. 1905.

Initium, Incrementum et Exitus Familiae Geraldinorum Desmoniae. Dominic O'Daly. 1655.

Fitzgibbon, Gibbons

ANCIENTLY : Of Norman Origins (Mac Giobuin)

VARIANTS : MacGibbon, Gibbons.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Gibbons	78	MAY, GAL.
Fitzgibbon	34	LIM.

ORIGINS : Gibbons is of English as well as Gaelic origins.

The chief of the name in Limerick was known as the White Knight of Galway.

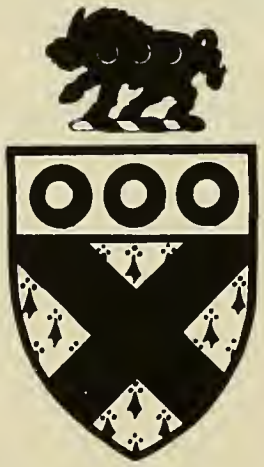
A MacGibbon was also chief of Clangibbon in Co. Cork.

Note the place name "Ballymacgibbon" in Co. Mayo.

Well known individual of the name: Cardinal James Gibbons (1834-1921) - Archbishop of Baltimore, U.S.A.

Coat of Arms: Ermine a saltire gules, on a chief argent three annulets of the second.

Crest: A boar passant gules charged on the body with three annulets fessways argent.



CONSULT

Fitzpatrick

ANCIENTLY : MacGiolla Phadraig (Macgilpatrick)

VARIANTS : Fitz, Fitchpatrick, Fitch, Paragon, Parrican, Patchy, Patrican, Patrick.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Fitzpatrick	249	DUB, QUE, COR, TIP, CAV, ANT, DOW, MAY, GAL.
Kilpatrick	24	ANT.

ORIGINS : Known as Lords of Upper Ossory (Leix and Kilkenny). Descended from Giolla Padraig of Ossory in the 10th century.

Coat of Arms: Sable a saltire argent, on a chief azure three fleur-de-lis or.

Crest: A dragon reguardant vert surmounted of a lion guardant sable dexter paw resting on the dragon's head.

The name is also found in Co. Fermanagh and associated with the MaGuire family concerning origins.

The only name with a "Fitz" prefix, accepted as an Irish family of more ancient times. "Fitz" in itself, usually denotes a Norman origin.

CONSULT

Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

O'Flaherty

ANCIENTLY : O'Flaithbhearthaig

VARIANTS : O'Laverty in Ulster?, Faherty, Flagherty.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Flaherty	88	GAL, KER.
O'Flaherty	16	
Laverty	26	ANT.
Lafferty	17	DON, LOND, TYR.

ORIGINS : The chief of the name in Galway was known as Lord of Moycullen and Lord of Iar-Connacht, which covered the Bay of Galway and Killary Harbour.

The Ulster sept was "Lord of Aileach" (Elagh) in Co. Donegal.

Coat of Arms: Argent two lions rampant combatant supporting a dexter hand couped at the wrist all gules, in base a boat with eight oars sable.

Descendants of Grainne O'Malley by her first husband (Teige O'Flahertie). Anthony MacDermott. (Ir. Gen.) I. 1940.

Iar Connaught. Roderic O'Flaherty. Dublin. 1846.

The Origin of the Surname O'Flaherty. Anthony Mathews. Dublin.

CONSULT

The Flight of the O'Flahertys, Lords of Moy Soela, to Iar Connaught. Rev. J. Fahy. (R) 1897.

O'Flanagan

ANCIENTLY : O'Flannagain

VARIANTS : Flanagan, Flang, Flanigan, Flannagan, Flannigan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Flanagan	219	ROS, DUB, MAY, CLA, GAL, FER, CAV, MON.

ORIGINS : The 69th most common surname of Ireland.

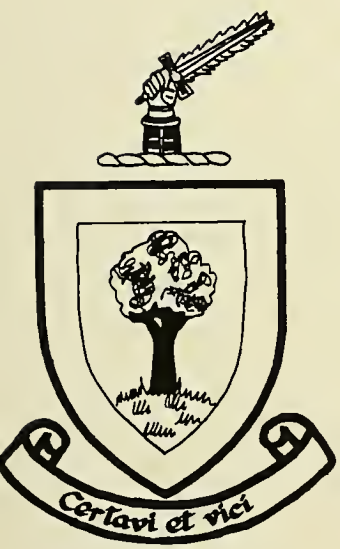
Hereditary stewards to the Connaught Kings, descended through the same line as the O'Connors. This sept is the main one found, and hereditary lands appear around Mantua and Elphin.

One chief of the name is cited in the area of Eli O'Carrol in Kings County, and another in the baronies of Iffa and Offa, on the Tipperary/Waterford border (per O'Heerin).

The name is also mentioned as a chief of Teffia, next to the barony of Brawney in Westmeath.

O'Dugan gives O'Flanagan as a chief of the barony of Maheraboy in Co. Fermanagh.

Well known individual of the name: Donough O'Flanagan (d. 1308) - Bishop of Elphin, in the barony of Roscommon.



Coat of Arms: Argent out of a mount in base vert an oak tree proper, a border of the second.

Crest: A dexter cubit arm in armour proper garnished or and gules holding a flaming sword azure pommel and hilt of the second.

Motto: Certavi et Vici.

CONSULT

O'Flannery

ANCIENTLY : O'Flannabhra, UiFidhgheinte

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Flannery	64	MAY, TIP, GAL, CLA.

ORIGINS : The Limerick branch appears to have moved into Tipperary.

O'Flannabhra - Location, Killala, Co. Mayo.

UiFidhgheinte - Location, barony of Connelloe, Co. Limerick.

Well known individual of the name: The Tipperary born Rev. (Dean) William Flannery (1830-1902) - Known as a poet and author of Canada.

CONSULT

Fleming

ANCIENTLY : (Of Flemish Origin) Pleamonn

VARIANTS : Flemon, Flemming, Flemmyng, Flemyng.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Fleming	170	ANT, DUB, GAL, LOND, COR, MAY.

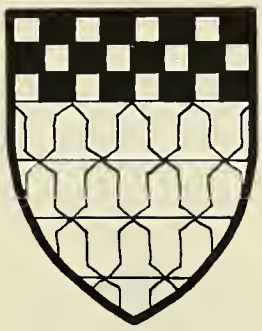
ORIGINS : Came to Ireland upon the Norman invasions gaining lands in Meath amoung others.

In the 1600's the Flemings possessed the Castle of Slane.

Modern day descendents have spread throughout all of Ireland.

Well known individual of the name: Nicholas Fleming - Archbishop of Armagh (1404-1416).

Coat of Arms: Vair a chief chequy or and gules.



CONSULT

Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

Historical and Genealogical Memoir of the Family of Fleming of Slane. Sir W. Betham. 1829.

Pedigree of the Fleming Family. Staholmoc, Meath. (L.P.) VI.

O'Flynn

ANCIENTLY : O'Floinn (Flann = Ruddy)

VARIANTS : O'Lynn, Fleens, Flinn, Flyng

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Flynn	319	COR, DUB, WAT, ROS, LEI, CAV.
O'Flynn	5	
Lynn	24	ANT.

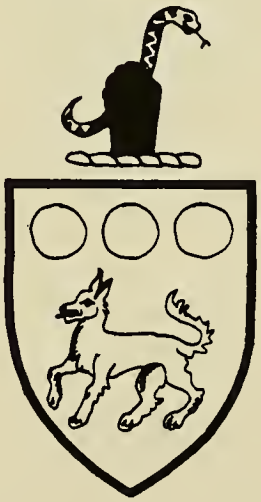
ORIGINS : Several independent families exist in seperate locations.

1. Cork & Waterford - The O'Flynn of Ardagh Castle and O'Flynn, "Lord of Muskerrylinn" both in Cork.
2. Roscommon, Leitrim, Cavan - The O'Flynns of Keltullagh and Kilkeevin in Roscommon, where the O'Flynns were also erenaghs of St. Dachonna, near Boyle. Also found near Lough Conn.

   Another Ulster sept was located in Antrim, descended through Colla Vais in the 4th century. This sept became O'Loinn (O'Lynn).

Coat of Arms: Azure a wolf passant argent, in chief three bezants.

Crest: A dexter hand erect couped holding a serpent tail embowed head to the sinister all proper.



CONSULT

The O'Flynns of Ardagh. J.M. Burke. (C) 1905.

O'Fogarty

ANCIENTLY : O'Fogartaigh

VARIANTS : (Gogarty = MagFhogartaigh - A seperate sept)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Fogarty	61	TIP, DUB.
Gogarty	7	MEA, LOU.

ORIGINS : The annals speak of "O'Fogarty, King of Ely." Castle Fogarty still stands in modern times as a tribute to their past.

The barony of Eliogarty is in Tipperary and is named after the Fogartys.

Coat of Arms: Azure two lions rampant combatant supporting a garb all or, in dexter base a crescent argent, in sinister base a harp of second stringed of the third.

Motto: Flead Ajus Failte

CONSULT

O'Foley

ANCIENTLY : O'Foghladha

VARIANTS : Fowloo, Foli, Fooley, Fooluiah.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
O'Foley	250	KER, COR, WAT, DUB.

ORIGINS : Also an English surname. No specific Gaelic pedigree exists from ancient times, but it is surely a name of Irish origin as well.

Most commonly found in the province of Munster.

The MacSearraigh (MacSharry) surname has also been anglicized to Foley, due to the translation of searraigh to foal.

Well known individual of the name: John Henry Foley (1818-1874) - Famous Irish sculptor.

CONSULT

Forde

ANCIENTLY :

VARIANTS : Ford, MacKinnawe, Foran

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Forde	154	GAL, COR, MAY, DUB.
Ford	39	

ORIGINS : Fords of English extraction came from Devinshire and settled in Meath in the 14th century.

Two Irish septs originated in Connacht:

1. Macgiollarnath - MacGiolla naNaomh, from southern Connemara, earlier "MacAneave" and corrupted further to Ford.
2. MacConsnamha - Also MacKinnawe and MacEnaw in English. Chiefs of Muintir Kenny.

Also in Cork:

3. O'Fuarthain - (Foran) Originating in Cork, now spelled Forde.

Well known individual of the name: Henry Ford - Ford Motors U.S.A.

CONSULT Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

Fox

ANCIENTLY : Sionnach (Fox)

VARIANTS : MacAshinah, MacShanaghy, Shanahy, Shunny, Shinnock, Shonogh

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Fox	125	DUB, LONG, TYR, LEI.

ORIGINS : The English families of this same Gaelic surname settled in Limerick and elsewhere.

Irish Septs:

1. Co. Meath - Chief of Teffia "Tadhg O'Catharnaigh" (O'Caherney) was called the Fox, and his followers adopted the name as such.
2. MacAshinah - Tyrone. Per Registrar General Report.
3. MacShannaghy - Louth. Per Registrar General Report.
4. Shanahy - Westmeath. Per Registrar General Report.
5. Shinagh - Mayo. Per Registrar General Report.
6. Shunny - Louth. Per Registrar General Report.
7. Shinnock - Kilkenny. Per Registrar General Report.
8. Shonogh - Galway. Per Registrar General Report.

The name or variant can be found throughout Ireland.

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion rampant and in chief two dester hands couped at the wrist gules.

Crest: An arm embowed in armour holding a sword all proper.

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

CONSULT

Some Notes on the Fox Family of Kilcoursey in King's Co. M.E. Stone. Chicago. 1890.

French

ANCIENTLY : de Freynes (of Norman Origin)

VARIANTS : Ffrench

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
French	24	ANTRIM

ORIGINS : Descended from Theophilus de French, who arrived with Strongbow in England. This branch in the beginning of the 14th century settled in Wexford.

In 1425 French's migrated to Galway and became one of the "Tribes of Galway." They then settled in Roscommon in the early 17th century (the French's "of French Park").

Well known individuals of the name: Walter French - Sovereign of Galway, 1444.

Coat of Arms: Ermine a chevron sable.

Crest: A dolphin embowed proper.

CONSULT

The Families of French of Belturbet and Nixon of Fermanagh and their Descendants. Rev. Henry Biddall Swanzy. Dublin. 1908.

The Families of French of Dures, Cloghballymore and Drumharsna with Tabular Pedigree. Martin J. Blake. (G) 1917-18.

The Origin of the Families of French of Connaught with Tabular Pedigree of John French of Grand-Terre in 1763. Martin J. Blake. (G) 1920-21.

Some Account of the Family of French of Belturbet. Rev. H.B. Swanzy. (U) 1902.

The Families of French and Their Descendants. Rev. H.B. Swanzy. Dublin. 1908.

Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

O'Friel

ANCIENTLY : O'Firghil (O'Frighil)

VARIANTS : Freal, Freel.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
O'Friel	43	DON, TYR, LOND.

ORIGINS : Descended from Eoghan, brother of St. Columbkille and hereditary co-arbs of Kilmacrenan, Co. Donegal.

The chief inauguarated "the O'Donnell" as lord of Tirconnell.

The diocese of Raphoe has numerous O'Friels and Friels listed as clergy.

Said to be direct descendants of the brother of St. Columbkille.

Coat of Arms: Gules in dexter fess a garb or, in sinister fess a dexter hand couped at the wrist fessways proper grasping a cross calvary on three grieces argent, in chief three mullets of the second.

Crest: A garb or.

CONSULT

Gaffney

ANCIENTLY : O'Gamhna

VARIANTS : Caulfield, Gaffey.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Gaffney	68	CAV, DUB, ROS.
Gaffey	10	ROS, GAL.

ORIGINS : Septs:

1. O'Gamhna of Ossory: Now Caulfield as well.
2. O'Caibheanaigh of Ossory: Also found as Keveny.
3. MacConghamhna of Galway: Also found as Caulfield.
4. MacCarrghamhna: Cavan & Roscommon (anglicized MacCaron as well).

Several septs have adopted this surname which clouds its origins. Its variants are numerous and appear to have no relationship to the original spelling in many cases.

CONSULT

O'Gallagher

ANCIENTLY : O'Gallchobhair

VARIANTS : Galagher, Gallaher, Galiher, Gallogher.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Gallagher	488	DON, MAY, TYR, SLI, LOND, DUB,

ORIGINS : Of royal descent through Gallchobhar (7th century) of Cineal Connaill. Centered in Ballybeit and Ballynaglack. Recorded as leaders of O'Donnells military forces (1300-1500 era).

14th Most common name of Ireland.

Numerous bishops of Raphoe were of this name down through the 1700's.

Well known individuals of the name: William Davis Gallagher (1808-1894) - American Poet.

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion rampant sable treading on a serpent in fess proper between eight trefoils vert.

Crest: A crescent gules out of the horns a serpent erect proper.

CONSULT

Irish Chiefs and Leaders. Rev. Paul Walsh. Ch.X. Dublin. 1960.

O'Galvin

ANCIENTLY : O'Gealbhain

VARIANTS : Galvan, Gallivane

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Galvin	62	COR, CLA, KER, ROS.
Gallivan	32	KER.

ORIGINS : Documented in the "Battle of Corcomroe Abbey," Co. Clare 1317 A.D.

In modern times still populous in Clare, as well as Co. Kerry. Also found numerous in the 1659 census in the barony of Athlone, Co. Roscommon.

Coat of Arms: Gules three salmon haurient argent.

CONSULT

Mac Gannon

ANCIENTLY : O'Geanain (Mag Fhionnain)

VARIANTS : Gannon

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Gannon	73	MAY, DUB, LEI.

ORIGINS : Co. Mayo is still Gannon Country today.

In Co. Clare the older form of the name is found as Mag Canann.

The name has also been cited as resident in Co. Kildare, of French origins dating to 1690, of which we have no confirmation.

CONSULT

O'Gara

ANCIENTLY : O'Gadhra

VARIANTS : Geary = Limerick & Kerry

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Gara	20	DON, ROS, MAY, DOW.
O'Gara	7	ROS, MAY.

ORIGINS : Descended through a common line with the O'Haras. Gadhra, in the 10th century, was the founder of the name, and nephew of Eadhra (the O'Hara). They split at this point with O'Gara being chief of lands to the south of the barony of Leyney in Co. Sligo. The O'Haras were then chiefs to their north.

They each intermittently ruled "Luighne." In the 1200's the O'Garas had moved into Co. Mayo, barony of Costello but were apparantly driven east. They were known as "Lords of Coolavin" in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Lough Gara still bear the Moygara Castle of the O'Garas on its shores.

A branch of the name appears in Munster in the 1400's.

Well known individual of the name: Col. Oliver O'Gara - Regiment commander of the Irish Brigades in France.

Coat of Arms: Argent three lions rampant azure, on a chief gules a demi-lion rampant or.

Crest: A demi-lion rampant ermine holding between the paws a wreath of oak vert acorned or.

CONSULT

Mac Garry

ANCIENTLY : Mag Fhearadhaigh

VARIANTS : Garrihy, Garry (Hare)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Garry	14	(scattered throughout.)
McGarry	79	ANT, DUB, ROS, LEI.

ORIGINS : The chief of the MacGarry sept in 1585 was listed as being from Moygarry, Co. Sligo. (Per Composition Book of Connacht.)

Possibly of common descent with the MacHughes of the same area.

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion rampant between four trefoils slipt vert, in chief a lizard passant vert.

Crest: A fox's head couped gules holding in the mouth a snake proper.

Motto: Fear Jarb A's Mait

CONSULT

Mac Garvey, O'Garvey

ANCIENTLY : MacGairbhith, O'Gairbith

VARIANTS : Garvan, Garvin (from O'Gairbhin)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Garvey	64	KER, MAY, GAL, LOU.
Garvin	5	

ORIGINS : In Co. Mayo the name is most numerous today, but it actually is a corruption of O'Gairbhin (Garvin). These (Garveys) traveled from Meath to Crossmolina after the Anglo-Norman Invasions.

In addition to the Donegal and Armagh septs listed above, another sept was located in Co. Down.

Although found in Cork and Kerry as well, these families most likely are "Garvan" descending from O'Garbain of Munster.

Coat of Arms: Ermine two chevronels between three crosses pattee gules.

Crest: A lion passant guardant gules.

Motto: Morior Invictus

CONSULT

Mac Gee

ANCIENTLY : Mag Aodha (son of Aodha or Hugh)

VARIANTS : Magee, McGhee

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Magee	193	ANT, ARM, DOW.
McGee	55	DON, TYR.

ORIGINS : In Ulster a sept arrived from Scotland in the early 1600's during the Ulster plantation, according to some reports.

Of Gaelic origins, a sept developed on the Donegal/Tyrone border. There is a place name "Island Mcgee" on Lough Larne in Antrim as well.

A chief of the name in Westmeath is recorded prior to the Anglo-Norman invasions.

Well known individual of the name: Martha Magee (1755-1846) - Founder of Magee University in Derry.

CONSULT

The Magees of Belfast and Dublin. F.J. Bigger. Belfast. 1916.

Mac Genis

ANCIENTLY : MagAonghusa (Son of Angus)

VARIANTS : Magennis, Guinness.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McGuinness	128	DUB, MON, LOU.

ORIGINS : From Saran, chief of Dal Araidhe, of St. Patricks era is the line of descent.

Beginning in the 1100's they were Lords of Iveagh, Co. Down.

Many descendants are on record giving service in foreign wars, Wild Geese, etc.

Well known individual of the name: General John R. MacGuinness (b. 1840) - Irish born American soldier.

The chief of the name was inaugurated in Co. Down on "the footstone of Aonghuis," near present day Warrenpoint. The rock exists in modern times according to some sources, ready for a successor.

The Magennis family held lands and castles around Rostrevor, Rathfriland, and Warrenpoint (Narrow Water Castle).

Coat of Arms: Vert a lion rampant or, on a chief argent a dexter hand erect couped at the wrist gules.

Pedigree of the Magennis (Guinness) Family of N. Ireland and Dublin. Richard Lihn. Christchurch. New Yealand. 1897.

Origin of the Surname McGuinness. Anthony Mathews. Dublin. 1968.

Notes on the Family of Magennis, formerly Lords of Iveagh, Newry and Mourne. E.F. Danne. Salt Lake City. 1878.

CONSULT

Mac Geoghegan

ANCIENTLY : Mag Eochagain

VARIANTS : Geoghan, Gegan, Gehegan, Gahagan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Geoghegan	38	DUB, GAL.

ORIGINS : A southern Ui Neill sept descending anciently from "King Niall of the Nine Hostages" in the 6th century. Centered in the barony of Moycashel, Co. Westmeath, the chief of the name resided near Kilbeggan.

Recorded in the Annals of the Four Masters, over a dozen MacGeoghegans are cited as chiefs or Lords of Kinalea. Which was all before the coming of Cromwell and confiscation of their hereditary lands.

Among hereditary haunts of the name, a most prominent family held sway at Castletown, Co. Westmeath.

A branch settled at Bunowen, Co. Galway and remains there in modern times.

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion rampant between three dexter hands couped at the wrist gules.

Crest: A greyhound passant or.

CONSULT

The MacGeoghegans. Rev. Paul Walsh. Mullingar. 1938.

Mac Geraghty

ANCIENTLY : Mag Oireachtaigh

VARIANTS : Gerty, Jerety, Gerity.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Geraghty	72	GAL, MAY, DUB.

ORIGINS : In 1585, the Composition Book of Connacht states that the chief of the name (MacGiriaght) was in the barony of Athlone.

A Hy Many sept.

Cited anciently in the barony of Roscommon, Co. Roscommon, they are said to have migrated into the Mayo/Sligo area and possessed Inis Murray, an Island off the Sligo coast.

Coat of Arms: Argent on a mount vert an oak tree proper, in chief two falcons volant gules.

Crest: On a mount vert an oak tree proper bent towards the dexter.

CONSULT

Mac Gilfoyle

ANCIENTLY : Mac Giolla Phoil (follower of St. Paul)

VARIANTS : Guilfoyle (modern deviation), Powell.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Guilfoyle	11	DUBLIN

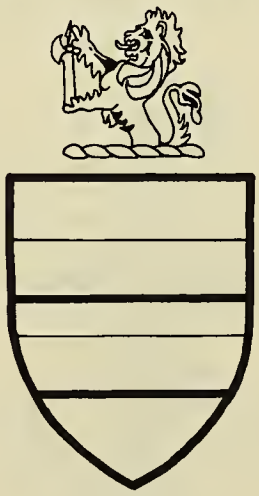
ORIGINS : Formerly seated near Shinrone, Co. Offaly in the Ely O'Carroll territory.

The Mac prefix is seldom found with this surname today.

Powell is said to be a corruption of the name under British influence and pressure.

Coat of Arms: Azure two bars argent.

Crest: A demi-lion rampant argent holding between the paws a battle-axe erect gules blade of the first.



CONSULT

Mac Gillycuddy

ANCIENTLY : Mac Giolla Chuda

VARIANTS : MacGillacuddy

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
MacGillycuddy	6	KERRY

ORIGINS : The highest peaks of Ireland, MacGillycuddy's Reeks in Co. Kerry, marks the location of the sept who dwelt at the western slopes.

"The MacGillycuddy of the Reeks" is one of the rare recognized chiefs of the name that exists today. Being a branch of O'Sullivan Mor, the name changed to the above in the 16th century, which is relatively late to do such a thing.

Documented in the baronies of Dunkerron and Maguhiny.

Coat of Arms: Gules a wyvern or.

Crest: MacGillycuddy's Reeks proper.

Motto: Sursum Corda.

CONSULT

The Macgillycuddy Family. (K) 1915.

The McGillycuddy Papers. W. Maziere Brady. London. 1867.

Gilmore

ANCIENTLY : MacIlmurray (MacGiolla Mhuire)

VARIANTS : Gilmour, Gillmore, Gilmer, Killmore.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Gilmore	54	ANT.
Gilmour	18	

ORIGINS : Sometimes anglicized as Murray.

Counties Down (barony of Castlereagh) and Antrim are the main areas cited for residence.

CONSULT

The Ulster Historical Foundation, Public Records Office, Northern Ireland, Law Courts Building, Belfast, Ireland.

Glenn

ANCIENTLY : a' ghleanna

VARIANTS : Glenny, Glennon, Glinn.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Glenn	12	ANT, LOND.
Glennon	28	
Glynn	72	GAL, MAY, DUB, CLA.
McGlynn	39	

ORIGINS : Very little else available on origins. Name appears to be taken from g'hleanna meaning "glen."

Found with the Mc prefix when spelled Glynn on 1891 Birth Index.

Glenn is generally accepted as a genuine Irish name.

CONSULT Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

O'Glissane

ANCIENTLY : O'Glesain (O'Glasain-O'Gliasan)

VARIANTS : Gleeson, Glisane, Glison, Glyssane, Glassane.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Gleeson	82	TIP, LIM, DUB, KIL, COR.

ORIGINS : Anciently of the same ancestors as the O'Donegans in the barony of Ara, Co. Tipperary. The O'Glissanes lost their Tipperary holdings with the coming of Cromwell.

The 1659 census shows residents in Clare and Limerick as well.

Their origins can be traced to Mac Ui Briain Aradh's country ranging from Nenagh to Lough Derg in Tipperary.

CONSULT

O'Gormley

ANCIENTLY : O'Gairmleadhaigh (O'Gormshuil)

VARIANTS : O'Gormooly, O'Gormaly

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
O'Gormley	44	ANT, TYR.

ORIGINS : Originally in Donegal, they were driven in the 1300's by the O'Donnells from their original lands towards Derry and Strabane where the fight continued.

O'Donovan states that the sept in Lough Key, Co. Roscommon, was of seperate origins from the sept of Co. Tyrone.

In the 1600's they are found mainly in Armagh and Derry, also in Roscommon and Westmeath.

Gorman and Grimes are corruptions of this surname.

Coat of Arms: Or, three martlets gules, two and one.

CONSULT

Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

Mac Gorman, O'Gorman

ANCIENTLY : MacGormain (gorm = blue)

VARIANTS : Bloomer

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Gorman	140	ANT, DUB, TIP, LEI, MUN.
O'Gorman	24	CLA.

ORIGINS : In Co. Leix after the Norman invasions they moved to Ibrickan in West Clare and Co. Monaghan.

The O prefix is more common in Co. Clare.

Coat of Arms: Azure a lion passant between three swords erect argent.

Crest: An arm embowed in armour grasping in the hand a sword, blade wavy, all proper.

Motto: Tosac Catia A's Deire Air.

The original Mac prefix of this name has been all but forgotten, found now in Co. Monaghan almost exclusively.

In Co. Clare they became hereditary marshals to the O'Briens and were quite prominent.

CONSULT Topographical Poems. O'Dugan & O'Heerin.

Mac Govern

ANCIENTLY : Mag Shamhradhain

VARIANTS : Magauran

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McGovern	102	FER, CAV, LEI.
Magauran	10	CAV.

ORIGINS : Descent is through Samhradhan (1100 A.D.) and Eochadh (800 A.D.). Ancestral lands are to be found in Co. Cavan at Tullyhaw. (Note the place name of Ballymagauran nearby.)

A fairly well known family in Argentina as well.

Well known individual of the name: John McGovern (1850-1917) - Novelist in the U.S.A.

Coat of Arms: Azure a lion passant or, in chief three crescents of the last.

Also said to have taken the form of Somers (variants) from the ancient spelling.

O'Gauran is described as a chief of Dal Druithne around Loughrea in ancient times as well.

The Book of the Magaurans (Rare Gaelic Manuscript.)

An Irish Sept. Rev. J.B. and J.H. McGovern. Manchester. 1886.

Genealogy and Historical Notes of the MacGauran or McGovern Clan. J.H. McGovern. Liverpool. 1890.

CONSULT

Mac Gowan, O'Gowan

ANCIENTLY : Mac an Ghabhain (son of the smith)

VARIANTS : Smith, Magown, Mageown

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McGowan	112	DON, LEI, SLI.
Magowan	28	

ORIGINS : Co. Cavan - Documented as a sept in earlier days of the Breffny area.

Ballygowan, Co. Down - O'Gowan was a Ulster sept. The 1659 census shows Counties Monaghan and Fermanagh as primary residence. This name, as well as MacGowan were both anglicized to the common English form of "Smith."

It has been noted that completely distinct surnames in Donegal and Clare have corrupted to this spelling as well.

CONSULT

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

A Memoir of the Name of O'Gowan or Smith. O'Gowan. Tyrone 1837,

O'Grady

ANCIENTLY : O'Gradaigh

VARIANTS : Brady, Graddy

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
O'Grady	47	CLA, LIM, DUB, ROS.

ORIGINS : While Co. Clare is the origin and most populated of any county in Ireland, the chief of the name has been located at Kilballyowen, Co. Limerick for several hundred years. Also fairly numerous in Co. Mayo as well.

A leading family in Clare changed the name to Brady, and descendants named Brady in East Co. Clare are truly O'Gradys.

Coat of Arms: Per pale gules and sable three lions passant per pale argent and or.

Crest: A horse's head erased argent.

Motto: Vulneratus Non Victus

CONSULT

O'Grady of Cappercullen (Co. Limerick). L.J. Bardwick. (N. Munster) VII, no 4. 1957.

O'Grady Papers. (Kilballyowen, Co. Limerick) A.H. XV

Mac Grath

ANCIENTLY : MacRaith (MacCraith)

VARIANTS : Magrath (Ulster = MacGraw, etc.)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McGrath	233	TIP, COR, WAT.
Magrath	31	WAT, ANT, TYR.

ORIGINS : Found in Scotland as MacCrea, MacRae, etc.

Irish Septs:

1. Bordering Donegal & Fermanagh - located at Termon MacGrath, the chief of the name being Co-arb of St. Daveog. Today numerous in Co. Tyrone.

2. Co. Clare - Where the family served as traditional Ollamhs in Thomand to the O'Briens. In modern times they are to be found more in Tipperary and Waterford. Magraths Castle still stands in Waterford City.

Well known individual of the name: Andrew Condon Magrath (1813-1893) - Governor of Carolina and Confederate in the Civil War of the United States. (Son of John Magrath.)

Coat of Arms: Quarterly, 1st, Argent three lions passant gules; 2nd, Or, a dexter hand lying fessways couped at the wrist proper holding a cross formee fitchee azure; 3rd, Bules a dexter hand lying fessways couped at the wrist proper holding a battle-axe or; 4th, Argent an atelope trippant sable attire or.

CONSULT

Griffin

ANCIENTLY : O'Griobhtha

VARIANTS : Griffy, Griffins, Griffen, Gribben, Griffith.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Griffin	216	KER, CLA, COR, LIM, GAL, MAY, DUB.

ORIGINS : The 75th most common name of Ireland. Predominantly a sept of Thomand (Co. Clare) of Irish origins.

Some of the name are of British or Welsh extraction as well. (Griffiths is one of the top 50 names of England, and is said sometimes to be anglicized to Griffin).

The earlier spelling of Griffey has largely been replaced by Griffin.

Predominantly a family of the province of Munster, one sept was earlier recorded near Kenmare (note the placename Ballygriffin).

The chief of the name in Thomand in the barony of Inchiquin, Co. Clare ruled under the O'Dea family. The chief of the name resided at Ballygriffey Castle in Dysart Parish.

CONSULT

O'Griffy

ANCIENTLY : O'Griobhtha

VARIANTS : Griffin (Griffith = Welsh origins)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Griffin	216	KER, CLA, COR, LIM, GAL, MAY, DUB.
Griffith	22	

ORIGINS : British and Welsh families bear the variant forms of this name as well as the Irish.

Irish Septs:

1. Barony of Inchiquin, Co. Clare - Centered in Dysart Parish in the Castle of Ballygriffey. (O'Greefa. Under the O'Deas.)
2. Ballygriffen, south of the Kenmare River - Documented in the 1500's, perhaps engulfed by the O'Sullivans. Modern descendants might be found in Kerry/Cork area.

Coat of Arms: Sable a griffin segreant or, langued and armed gules.

CONSULT

Mac Guire

ANCIENTLY : Maguidhir

VARIANTS : Maguire

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Maguire	248	FER, DUB, CAV, DON.
McGuire	74	ROS, MAY.

ORIGINS :

Anciently recorded as influential in Ulster.

The "Annals" show the name as early as 956 A.D., but by the 1300's, a sept began to establish themselves firmly in Co. Fermanagh. Being directly affected by the Ulster Plantations and the all too familiar land confiscations. Maguire, Baron of Enniskillen, commanded a regiment under James II in Ireland, and upon defeat many Maguires are found amoung the "Wild Geese" serving France and Austria.

Well known individual of the name: Thomas Maguire (1831-1889) - First Catholic to be elected to a fellowship at Trinity College, Dublin.

Coat of Arms: Vert a white horse fully caparisoned thereon a knight in complete armour on his helmet a plume of ostrich feathers his right hand brandishing a sword all proper.

(See Maguire.)

CONSULT

The Maguires and Irish Learning. Rev. Paul Walsh. Irish Men of Learning, ch. XIX. Dublin. 1947.

Irish Chiefs and Leaders. Rev. Paul Walsh. chs I-II. Dublin. 1960.

A Maguire Family in France. Pierre Chauvet. (Clogher) V.

Hackett

ANCIENTLY : (Of Norman origin - 12th Century)

VARIANTS : Haket, MacHackett

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Hackett	34	TYR, DUB, KIL.

ORIGINS : The place name Hacketstown is found in Co. Carlow. Similar placenames (Ballyhackett) were found earlier in Dublin and Kildare Counties as well.

Castle Hackett was just outside of Tuam and served as the seat of the name for MacHacketts of Connacht.

Counties Tipperary and Kilkenny however, are the main areas of Hackett country today.

Coat of Arms: Azure three hake fishes haurient in fess argent, on a chief of the second three shamrocks proper.

CONSULT

O'Hagan

ANCIENTLY : O'hAodhagain

VARIANTS : Hegan, Aiken

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

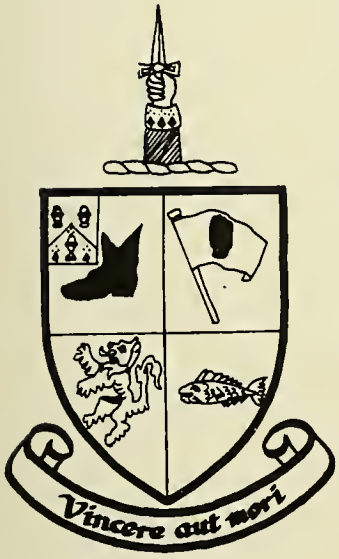
Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Hagan	63	ANT, TYR, ARM.
O'Hagan	33	ANT, LOU, DOW.

ORIGINS : The chief of the name at Tullahogue in County Tyrone was the traditional inaugurator of O'Neill, King of Ulster.

The name is also found in Monaghan and Armagh in medieval days.

The placename Ballyagan is found in Derry as well as Antrim.

This family was of Gaelic origins and predominantly Catholic. The O' prefix has been kept to a large degree when compared with other Irish names.



Coat of Arms: Quarterly, argent and azure, in 1st quarter, a shoe proper, on a canton per chevron gules and ermine three covered cups or; in 2nd quarter, a flag of the first charged with a dexter hand of fourth; in 3rd quarter, a lion rampant of the sixth; and in the 4th quarter, a fish naiant proper.

Crest: A cubit arm proper vested gules cuffed ermine the hand holding a dagger erect both proper.

Motto: Vincere Aut Mori

CONSULT

The Ulster Clan. Rev. T.H. Mullin & Rev. J.E. Mullan. Belfast. 1966.

Mac Hale

ANCIENTLY : MacCeile (MacEli)

VARIANTS : Howell (Welsh origins in the barony of Tirawley)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McHale	51	MAY.
Hale	13	COR, ANT.

ORIGINS : The Gaelic MacHales were erenaghs of Killala and are almost exclusively of County Mayo.

Well known individual of the name: John MacHale (1791-1881) - Archbishop of Tuam.

When found as Hale, in Ulster, the name is likely of English origins and cited as settling in Waterford and Tipperary as well.

CONSULT

O'Halloran

ANCIENTLY : O'hAllmhrain

VARIANTS : Hallaron, Hallorin, Halloron.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Halloran	67	CLA, GAL, COR.
O'Halloran	25	LIM.

ORIGINS : Founded originally in:

1. Co. Galway - Chiefs of Clann Fearghaile near Lough Corrib. They also held lands in the western area of the city of Galway. Prominent up until the end of the 1500's.
2. Co. Clare - Settling at Ogonnellae by Lough Derg and into Co. Limerick.

Several of this family name settled in Australia, namely two sons of Sir Joseph O'Halloran (1763-1843), and Laurance Hynes O'Halloran (1766-1831) who was a school headmaster in Sydney.

Coat of Arms: Gules a horse passant argent saddled and bridled proper, on a chief of the second three martlets azure.

Crest: A lizard or.

Motto: Clann Fearjaill Abu'

CONSULT

The O'Halloran Family. J. King. History of Co. Kerry. Dublin. 1910.

O'Hanlon

ANCIENTLY : O' hAnluain

VARIANTS : Handion, Hanlan, Hanlin.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hanlon	95	DUB, KER, LOU, WEX.
O'Hanlon	22	DUB, ARM.

ORIGINS : "Lords of Orion" in Armagh, which was predominately their homeland.

In modern times they have settled as well in Co. Cork.

A well known individual of the name: Rev. John Canon O'Hanlon (1821-1905) - Author of Lives of the Irish Saints and many other works.

Coat of Arms: Vert on a mount in base proper a boar passant ermine.

Crest: A lizard displayed vert.

Other known locations: Co. Armagh (Baronies of Oneilland and Orior).

CONSULT

Redmon Count O'Hanlon's Descendants. (L) 1908-11.

O'Hanly

ANCIENTLY : O'hAinle

VARIANTS : Hanley, Handly, Hanily, Henley.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hanly	60	ROS, GAL, LIM, TIP.
Hanley	35	COR.

ORIGINS : Anciently of County Roscommon by the Shannon River where the place name Doohyhanly can be found as well.

Their occupation of Cork seems to have come after the 1659 census.

Well known individuals of the name: Donal O'Hanley and Samuel O'Hanley who were both (Arch) Bishops of Dublin prior to the 13th century.

Coat of Arms: Vert a boar passant argent armed hoofed and bristled or, between two arrows barways of the second headed of the third, that in chief pointing to the sinister.

Crest: Three arrows sable flighted argent pointed or one in pale the other two barways.

Motto: Saijeadoir Collac Abu

CONSULT

O'Hanley and the townland of Kilmacogh. Gerald Hanley. (Ir. Gen.) III. 1958.

Hannifin

ANCIENTLY : O'hAinbhthin

VARIANTS : Hanafin, Hanifin, Hanvey (?).

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hanifin	6	KER.
Hanafin	5	

ORIGINS : A traditional sept located in Co. Kerry and most often found there to this day.

According to Woulfe it is related to the "Hanvey" surname found in West Cork.

O'Hanvy (O'Habeith) is cited as chief of Ferbili in the barony of Farbill in Co. Westmeath as well. O'Hanvey was also cited as chief in the barony of Iveagh (O'Ainbith).

CONSULT

Genealogical Office, Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland.

O'Hannon

ANCIENTLY : O'hAnain

VARIANTS : Hannen, Hanar, Haneen, Hannin.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Hannon	44	GAL, ROS, LIM.
Hannan	32	COR, SLI.

ORIGINS : The 1659 census shows the barony of Athlone in Co. Roscommon as a center of the O'Hannon family, and Haneens were found in the Bunratty barony of Co. Clare at that time.

The Hannon spelling is also used by the Hanneen families of southeast Co. Galway and the Hanahans of Co. Limerick.

Coat of Arms: Quarterly gules and or on a bend sable three crosses pattee argent.

CONSULT

O'Hanraghty

ANCIENTLY : O'hAnrachtaigh

VARIANTS : Hanratty, (Enright from MacEnraughty)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hanratty	30	LOU, ARM, MON, DUB.

ORIGINS : Anciently of Oriel. Today they are most populous in Louth, Armagh, and Monaghan.

The Four Masters mention the name as being the "Lords of Ui Meath" with lands in Northern County Louth.

After the Anglo-Norman invasions we find the family in County Monaghan, settling near Castleblaney.

The name with the Mac prefix has been anglicized Enright (from MacEnraughty) and found mainly in Limerick.

Coat of Arms: Azure a griffin passant wings elevated or.

Crest: On a helmet in profile visor closed a dolphin naiant all proper.

CONSULT

O'Hanrahan

ANCIENTLY : O'hAnrachain

VARIANTS : (O'Hourihane ? in County Cork)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hanrahan	54	CLA, LIM.

ORIGINS : Said to be a Dalcasion sept still occupying their traditional territories (Clare and Limerick).

The name is also found as Handrahan in southern Tipperary.

Said to be a variant of Hourahan as cited by Woulfe, this spelling is found in West Cork where the name is found in use by several Erenaghs of Ross.

O'Hinradhain (O'Hanrahan) is cited as chief of the barony of Corcaree, in Co. Westmeath in ancient times as well.

CONSULT

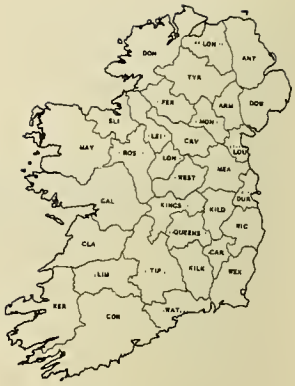
O'Hara

ANCIENTLY : O'hEaghra

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hara	5	GAL.
O'Hara	105	DUB, ANT, SLI.



ORIGINS : Descended from Eaghra, chief of Leyny in County Sligo.

In the middle of the 14th century they divided into two septs:

1. O'Hara Boy (tawney) - Seated at Collooney.
2. O'Hara Reagh (grizzled) - Seated at Ballyhara.

Some of the name settled in Antrim as well.

In the 1800's in Sligo the "Cooper Hill" O'Haras and Annaghmore branch of the family were extensive landholders.

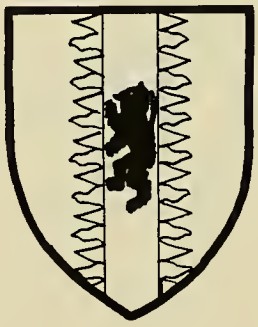
The "Baron Tyrawley" title was given to the O'Haras who sided with the British in County Sligo.

Well known individuals of the name:

James O'Hara (1752-1819) - American Revolutionary.

Most Rev. William O'Hara (1816-1899) - 1st Bishop of Scranton.

Coat of Arms: Vert on a pale radiant or a lion rampant sable.



CONSULT

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

The Book of O'Hara. Ancient manuscript documenting the chiefs of the name.

Harrington

ANCIENTLY : O'hlongardail, O'hOireachtaigh, O'hArrachtain.

VARIANTS : O'Hungerdell

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Harrington	119	COR, KER, MAY.

ORIGINS : A popular English name also. Three Gaelic septs have anglicized their surname spelling to this form:

1. O'hlongardail - Most numerous and from Cork and Kerry.
2. O'hOireachtaigh - Also found as Heraghty in Galway and Mayo.
3. O'hArrachtain - Also found as Harraughton in Kerry as well.

Harrington today is predominantly a Cork name.

Well known individual of the name: Timothy Harrington (1851-1910) - M.P. and Lord Mayor of Dublin.

CONSULT

Hartry, Hartray

ANCIENTLY : O hAirtri

VARIANTS : Hartray, Hart, Harty.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties

ORIGINS : The name first appears in the province of Connaught. Most common in modern times in Waterford and Tipperary, the name is rare in Ireland today.

Hart and Harty are possible variants of this surname being shorter forms of the stem word "Hart."

It was a common practice to shorten Irish names in this manner, i.e. Quinlievan to Quin, etc. This is particularly true in the case of rarer names like Hartry, when similar more common names like Hart are already found in the vicinity.

The Harty surname is to be found in Tipperary and Cork today.

CONSULT

O'Hart

ANCIENTLY : O'hAirt

VARIANTS : Harte (Connacht), Hart (also English)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hart	64	ANT, DUB, COR.
Harte	58	LEI, ROS.

ORIGINS : Meaning descendants of Art, who was son of "Conn of the Hundred Battles." One of the Four Tribes of the sacred site of Tara.

Anciently of Teffia, after the Norman invasions they settled in the barony of Carbury, Co. Sligo where they are recorded as chiefs in the Composition Book of Connacht.

A leading family of this county until the devastations in the 1600's, they are known to have been in Newtown and Ardtarmon amoung others at that time.

Coat of Arms: Gules a lion passant guardant or, in base a human heart argent.

Crest: A naked arm couped below the elbow and erect grasping a sword flammant all proper.

Motto: Forliter et Fideliter.

CONSULT

The Last Princes of Tara... J. O'Hart. Dublin. 1873.

Irish Pedigrees. John O'Hart (1824-1870).

Family History of Hart of Donegal. H.T. Hart. (1907).

O'Hartigan

ANCIENTLY : O'hArtagain

VARIANTS : Hartagan, Hartican.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hartigan	16	LIM.

ORIGINS : Anciently a sept from Thomand, the name is strongly associated with Limerick today.

Dunlaing O'Hartigan fought in the battle of Clontarf repelling the Danes, and is well known for his heroic efforts in same.

A well known individual of the name: Father Hartegan - Irish-Australian poet in the early 20th century.

Coat of Arms: Azure a lion rampant or holding in each forepaw a dagger argent pommels and hilts of the second.

Crest: A gauntlet erect grasping a sword proper pommel and hilt or.

CONSULT

Hassett

ANCIENTLY : O'hAiseadha (aisid = strife)

VARIANTS : (O'Hassey?)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hassett	11	CLA, TIP.

ORIGINS : This family name is centered in County Clare and northern County Tipperary which is considered the traditional homeland of the family.

Long prominent in County Clare, they are considered a Thomand sept.

Also cited as chiefs of "Kinel Tighearnaigh" under the name of O'Hassey.

The name is rarely found in Britain.

CONSULT

Hayes

ANCIENTLY : O'hAodha (Of Irish origin)

VARIANTS : Hays, Haze, Heys, Hoy, O'Hea.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Hayes	275	COR, LIM, TIP, DUB, WEX, ANT, GAL.

ORIGINS : The 52nd most common name of Ireland, it is to be found in the province of Munster.

O'Haoda, O'Hea, or Hayes, chief of Musgraidhe Luachra (between Killmallock and Ard Patrick in the barony of Coshlea, Co. Tipperary) is described by O'Heerin in his Topographical Poems:

"O'Hea, the bestower of cattle,
has held the wide Musgraide Luachra,
The tribe of the fair land of melodious song,
Dwelt along the great salmon stream"

Amoung the English families of the name were those of Co. Wexford, who were well established at an early date.

CONSULT

O'Hea

ANCIENTLY : O'hAodha

VARIANTS : Hayes, (Hughes in Ulster), Heas

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hayes	275	COR, LIM, TIP, DUB, WEX, ANT, GAL.
Hughes	334	ARM, ANT, DUB.

ORIGINS : Aghamilly Castle in Pobble O'Hea marks land held by the sept under the Barrys.

Also a common English name (Hayes), settlers of English descent are found in Wexford.

Several distinct Gaelic families adopted this surname not the least of which comes from Thomand.

In the 1659 census the spelling O'Hea is found predominant in Co. Clare.

Patrick Woulfe lists other septs as follows:

1. Ardstraw (Co. Tyrone).
2. Ballyshannon (Co. Donegal).
3. Farney (Co. Monaghan).
4. Navan (Co. Meath).
5. Gorey (Wexford).
6. Dromard (Sligo).
7. Ballintober, Templemurray (Mayo).
8. Of Ui Maine.

Coat of Arms: Argent a dexter arm lying fessways couped below the elbow vested gules turned up of the first grasping in the hand a sword in pale entwined with a serpent descending all proper.

CONSULT

The O'Heas of South-West Cork. John T. Collins. (Cork) N.S. XLVIII. 1943.

O'Healy

ANCIENTLY : O'hElidhe, O'hEalaighthe (Munster)

VARIANTS : O'Hely, O'Haly, O'Healihy

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Healy	291	COR, KER, DUB, GAL, ROS, MAY.
Hally	13	TIP.

ORIGINS : In Co. Cork, Donoughmore, in the barony of Muskerry was a territorial holding of the Munster sept. A Protestant convert of the family was appointed as Earl of Donoughmore in later days.

Placenames are found in Sligo (Ballyhely, the seat of the sept), also in Wexford (i.e. Ballyhealy, Healysland).

The surname of "Kerrisk" is believed to have come from Pierce O'Healy in Co. Kerry, meaning "son of Pierce."

CONSULT

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

The Healys of Donoughmore. John T. Collins. (C) 1943.

O'Heffernan

ANCIENTLY : O' hIfearnain

VARIANTS : Hiffernan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Heffernan	53	TIP.

ORIGINS : Known as Chiefs of Owneybeg in Limerick on the Tipperary border, later replaced by the Ryans.

Also recorded in the barony of Clanwilliam in 1600.

The Book of Rights calls the O'Heffernans one of the Four Tribes of Owney.

Coat of Arms: Per fess vert and gules, on a fess or a lion passant guardant azure, in chief three crescents or.

Crest: A cubit arm erect in armour the hand gauntleted and holding a broken sword proper.

CONSULT

The Heffernans and Their Times. Patrick Heffernan. London. 1940.

O'Hegarty

ANCIENTLY : O'hEigceartaigh

VARIANTS : Haggerty, Eagerton, Hagerty, Higerty.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hegarty	100	COR, DON, CLA, LOND, MAY.

ORIGINS : Of the "Cinel Eoghan," this sept was originally located around the borders of Donegal and Derry. Also in Co. Derry, they are recorded in the 14th century in the barony of Loughinsholin, and in the 1600's in Tirkeeran.

Inishowen in Donegal, and the baronies of Barrymore and Carbery West in Co. Cork are recorded locations for the sept as well.

The place name Hegartys Rock is near Lough Swilly at Killygarvan.

Well known individuals of the name: Several members of this sept are recorded in the Irish Brigades of France.

Coat of Arms: Argent an oaktree eradicated proper, on a chief gules three birds of the first beaked and legged sable.

Crest: An arm in armour embowed the hand grasping a scymitar all proper.

Motto: Nee Flectitur Nec Mutant

CONSULT

A History of the Noble O'Hegerty Family...Of the Province of Ulster. John C. Hagarty. Charleston. 1959.

O'Hehir

ANCIENTLY : O' hAichir

VARIANTS : Hare, O'Hare, Hegher.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hehir	28	CLA, LIM.

ORIGINS : Strongly based in Co. Clare, Thomand area, over numerous generations.

Also found in Tipperary, the name is considered of Ui Fidhgheinte origins.

Aichear, in Gaelic, means sharp or bitter and may have been the original meaning of the name.

O'Haitchir (or O'Hehir) is cited by O'Heerin as chief of Hy Flanchadha and Hy Cormac in the barony of Islands, Co. Clare.

CONSULT

O'Hennessy

ANCIENTLY : O'hAonghusa

VARIANTS : Hensey, Henchy.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hennessy	111	COR, LIM, TIP, DUB.

ORIGINS : Hereditary Lords of Clan Cholgain with central territory located by Kilbeggan and the hill of Croghan in Sligo. Eventually entering Clare and Tipperary where the name is said to have changed to Hensey and Henchy. A branch of this sept settled near Dublin being known as chiefs of Gailenga Beg bordering Meath and Dublin by the River Liffey.

A separate family hails from southwest Cork by Ross Bay. Ballyhennessy place names can be found in Clare, Cork, and Kerry.

Well known individuals of the name: Several of the name are prominent in France, and the brandy of the name is of an Irish descendant in France also. Most Rev. John Hennessy (1825-1900) - Archbishop of Dubuque.

Coat of Arms: Vert a stag trippant argent between six arrows two two and two saltireways or.

Crest: Between the attires of a stag affixed to the scalp or an arrow point downwards gules headed and flighted argent.

The O' prefix was used through the 1600's.

CONSULT

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

O'Heyne

ANCIENTLY : O'hEidhin

VARIANTS : Haynes, Hines

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hynes	83	GAL, CLA, MAY, DUB.

ORIGINS : Known as "Lords of Aidhne," ruling jointly with the O'Shaughnessys. Descended from Guaire the Hospitable, King of Connacht.

An O'Heyne was also a commander of forces in the Battle of Clontarf (1014).

O'Heynes Abbey is the Abbey of Kilmacduagh.

The chief of the name was located near Ballinasloe into the 19th century.

In the early 17th century they are recorded as living near Kinvarra.

Coat of Arms: Per pale indented or and gules two lions rampant combatant counter-changed.

Crest: A dexter arm armed embowed the hand grasping a sword all proper.

CONSULT

Tribes and Customs of Hy Fiachra. John O'Donovan.

O'Hickey

ANCIENTLY : O'hIcidhe

VARIANTS : Hickie

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Hickey	139	COR, TIP, DUB, LIM, CLA.

ORIGINS : Hereditary physicians to the O'Briens of Thomand.

Coat of Arms: Azure a lion passant guardant or, on a chief ermine a bend sable.

Crest: A hand in a gauntlet erect holding a baton all proper.

CONSULT

The O'Hickeys. J. Hickey. (N. Munster) VIII no. 1. 1958.

O'Higgin

ANCIENTLY : O'Huigin

VARIANTS : Higgins, Hagans, Higgens, Higins.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Higgins	205	MAY, GAL, DUB, ROS, COR, ANT.
Higginson	8	ANT.

ORIGINS : The form Higgins is an English surname as well. Originally descending from the O'Neils in central Ireland, they held land in Sligo and surrounding counties.

An exceptional number of poets were of this family.

Coat of Arms: Argent guttee de poix on a fess sable three towers of the first.

Crest: A tower sable issuant from the battlements a demi-griffin wings elevated argent holding in the dester claw a sword proper.

CONSULT

Ambrose O'Higgins: An Enquiry into his Origins and Ancestry. Baron Brian de Breffny. (Ir. Anc) II, 2. 1970.

Hoban

ANCIENTLY : O'hUbain

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Hoban	22	MAY, KIL.

ORIGINS : Today most prominent in Mayo. Origins are uncertain, but the name remains concentrated only in the Mayo area.

Information is very sparse on this surname.

Also found in Co. Kilkenny from the 1600's on.

CONSULT

O'Hogan

ANCIENTLY : Ogan (O'hogain)

VARIANTS : Ogan, Houghegan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Hogan	193	TIP, DUB, LIM, CLA, COR.

ORIGINS : The chief of the name was located at Ardcrony (by Nenagh) in Co. Tipperary.

The Hogans in Co. Cork are stated by O'Donovan to be a separate family altogether.

Remaining near their traditional homeland, the Hogans are most prominent in Clare, Tipperary, and Limerick today.

Coat of Arms: Sable on a chief or three annulets of the field.

CONSULT Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

O'Holohan

ANCIENTLY : O'hUallachain

VARIANTS : Whoolehan, Oolahan, Holland

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Houlihan	38	KER, LIM, COR, CLA.
Holohan	11	KIL.

ORIGINS : The 1659 census shows Co. Kilkenny the most populated with Holohans.

In Munster (west) the name is found as Houlihan as well.

Also known as leaders of Clan Colgan in Offaly.

The family spread southwards into Co. Cork where the name is also anglicized as Holland.

Coat of Arms: Azure a tower or supported by two lions rampant argent, in base two crescents of the last, on a chief of the third three annulets gules.

CONSULT

O'Horan

ANCIENTLY : O'hOdhrain (also O'hArrachain - Thomand)

VARIANTS : Haren, Haran, Haughran.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Horan	63	MAY, KER, TIP, ROS.

ORIGINS : Anciently of Galway. Cited as a clan of Ui Mani.

Coat of Arms: Vert three lions rampant two and one or.

Crest: A demi-lion rampant or.

CONSULT

O'Hosey

ANCIENTLY : O'hEodhusa

VARIANTS : Hussey

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Hussey	26	KER, GAL, ROS.

ORIGINS : Co. Kerry individuals of the name (Hussey) are believed to be of Norman origin from the Houssaye family of France.

In Connacht, more likely of Gaelic origins (O'hEodhusa) being hereditary bards to the MacGuires of Fermanagh.

CONSULT

O'Houneen

ANCIENTLY : O'hUaithnin

VARIANTS : Greene (Connacht & Munster), Huneen, Hooney (Cork).

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Green	105	DUB, ANT, GAL.
Greene	47	TIP, CLA.

ORIGINS : While also of English origin, several translations of Gaelic names into the English "Green" account for the widespread use of this surname.

Found as O'Huonyn originally in Co. Clare, the name has been changed to Greene there, as evidenced by the birth index. Recorded earlier in Tipperary and Clare.

CONSULT

Pedigree of the Family of Greene. Lt. Col. J. Greene. Dublin. 1899.

Green Family of Youghal, Co. Cork. Swanzy & Green. Dublin. 1902.

Mac Hugh

ANCIENTLY : MacAodha (son of Hugh)

VARIANTS : MacKay, MacCoy, Hughes, Hewson.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McHugh	176	MAY, DON, FER, GAL, LEI.
Hughes	334	ARM, ANT, DUB, TYR, MON, GAL, MAY.

ORIGINS : MacHugh is prominent in Connacht records and they were chiefs of the barony of Clare in Galway. Also recorded in the 16th century in the barony of Athlone in Co. Roscommon.

Coat of Arms: Argent a saltire vert between a dexter hand couped at the wrist in chief gules, two trefoils slipt of the second in fess and a boat with oars proper in base.

CONSULT

O'Hurley

ANCIENTLY : O'hUirthile

VARIANTS : Herlihy, Murily, Murhila.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Herlihy	42	COR, KER.
Hurley	134	COR, WAT, DUB, GAL.

ORIGINS : Chiefs of Thomond in the 14th century later to be found in Co. Limerick (Kilmallock).

There is the place name, Rathhurley, in Co. Tipperary as well (parish of Kilruane).

Recorded as residing at Knocklong Castle in County Limerick int he 16th and 17th centuries.

County Cork - (In the Carbery East area) The name being corrupted to O'Hurly from Murhila and from O'Herlihy families as well.

Several Bishops of Ross are of this name (from Cork).

Coat of Arms: Argent on a cross gules five frets or.

CONSULT

The Family of O'Hurley. Rev. P. Hurley. Cork. 1906.

Some Account of the Family of O'Hurly. (C) 1906.

Mac Inerney

ANCIENTLY : MacAnAirchinnigh (son of Erenagh)

VARIANTS : Nerney

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McInerney	64	CLA, LIM.

ORIGINS : Today most of the name come from County Clare. More anciently of the parish of Kilconry, barony of Bunratty in the same county.

The corrupted spelling "Nerney" is said to be found in Co. Roscommon of separate origins.

The name literally means a "steward of church lands," and therefore several separate families have arisen.

Coat of Arms: Argent three lions passant in pale gules armed and langued azure.

Crest: A mermaid proper.

CONSULT

Jennings

ANCIENTLY : MacSheoinin

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Jennings	63	MAY, GAL, COR, ARM.

ORIGINS : This surname was used by the "Burke" family of Connacht with their original ancestor being Seoinin (Little John) Burke.

Also of English origins, many modern bearers of this name outside of Connacht are of British descent.

Recorded in Connacht as possessing lands of Co. Galway (barony of Dunmore) and Co. Mayo (Kilmaine).

The family has several members prominent in the Irish Brigades and the French Revolution.

Well known individual of the name: Sir Patrick A. Jennings (1830-1897) - Governor of New South Wales.

CONSULT

Johnson, Johnston

ANCIENTLY :

VARIANTS : Johnson, Johnstone, Jonson, Shane, MacShane, MacEoin, Makeon, Cheyne.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Johnson	58	COR, DUB, ANT.
Johnston	320	ANT, DOW, ARM, FER, DUB.
Johnstone	21	CAV, LOND.

ORIGINS : The 33rd most common name of Ireland, it is the 16th most popular of Scotland as well. (Johnson ranks 10th in England as well.)

The MacShanes were of Co. Tyrone and are one of the many Irish families to anglicize to a form such as Johnson. It is actually a translation from the Gaelic "son of Shane (MacShane)" or "son of John" to (Johns son) Johnson.

With its popularity on the surrounding islands, origins are difficult to trace.

CONSULT

The Johnstons of Correnney, Co. Fermanagh. Irish Genealogist, I. 1941. 321.

Jordan

ANCIENTLY : Mac Siurtain.

VARIANTS : MacSiurtan, MacShurton, MacShurdan, (MacJordan= Mayo)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Jordan	98	DUB, MAY, ANT, GAL.

ORIGINS : Also an English surname.

MacJordan's Country was the area of Co. Mayo in the barony of Gallen.

MacSiurtain was the name of a Norman family who held lands in Connaught after the Norman invasion of 1172.

Coat of Arms - Jordan (MacSurtain): Argent a fess sable, in base a lion passant of the last.

Well known individual of the name: Kate Jordan (1862-1926) - Irish born American Novelist.

CONSULT

Composition Book of Connacht

Fiants

Joyce

ANCIENTLY : Seoighe

VARIANTS : Shoye (Ballinrobe - Co. Mayo)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Joyce	164	GAL, MAY.

ORIGINS : Also found in England and various other countries.

Thomas de Jorse (Joyce) came from Wales in 1283 and married into the O'Brien, Prince of Thomand family. The family came to be chiefs of the name in the barony of Ross in Co. Galway.

One of the 14 Tribes of Galway.

Well known individuals of the name:

James Joyce (1882-1941) - Author of Ulysses, etc.

Robert Dwyer Joyce (1830-1883) - U.S.A. Physician & Poet.

Isaac Wilson Joyce (1836-1905) - Methodist preacher of Irish heritage.

Coat of Arms: Argent an eagle with two heads displayed gules, over all a fess ermine.

Crest: A demi-wolf argent ducally gorged or.

CONSULT

Composition Book of Connaught

Kane

ANCIENTLY : O'Cahan (Of Irish origins)

VARIANTS : Kain, Cahan, Cane, Kaine, McKane, O'Kane.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Kane	190	ANT, LOND, DUB.

ORIGINS : The 72nd most common surname of Ireland.

O'Kanes country was once the majority of land in Co. Derry. Recorded as chiefs in the barony of Coleraine earlier, O'Cathain (O'Kane) was the chief of Keenaght of Glengiven. This family was a branch of the O'Neills of Eugenian descent.

Falling from power upon the plantations of Ulster the name remains prominent in that province today.

The O'Kanes were one of the chief clans of Dalriada.

MacKane is believed to be of Scottish origins entirely.

CONSULT

The Ulster Clans. Rev. T.H. Mullin & Rev. J.E. Mullan. Belfast. 1966.

Some Account of the Sept of the O'Cathains of Ciannachta Glinne-Geinhin. J.Scott Parker. (U) III. 1855. IV. 1856.

Kannaly

ANCIENTLY : O'Cinnfhaelidh

VARIANTS : Kinneally, Kennelly, Quinnelly, Connolly, Kennely.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Kennelly	36	COR, WAT, TIP.

ORIGINS : The above is a likely origin of this surname. The Quinnealy spelling originated in Co. Cork. The barony of Connello in Co. Limerick bears the Kinneally or Kenelly spelling at a much earlier date.

O'Kinealy was cited as a chief of Eoganacht Grian Gabhra (the baronies of Coshma and Small County in County Limerick). This name is cited by O'Heerin in his Topographical Poems on 12th century Ireland as such.

CONSULT

Kavanagh

ANCIENTLY : Caomhanach (of St. Caomhan)

VARIANTS : Keevan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Kavanagh	274	DUB, WEX, WIC.

ORIGINS : The first Kavanagh was Donal, son of Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster. Dermot instigated the invasion of the Normans in 1169.

Several family members fought with the Wild Geese of France, and also became prominent in Austria.

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion passant gules, in base two crescents of the last.

CONSULT

The Fall of the Clan Kavanagh. James Hughes. (R.S.A.I.) XII. 1873.

The Family of the MacMurrough Kavanaghs. Iona MacLeod. (Carloviana) I. no. 3. 1954.

Kavanagh Papers. Borris, Co. Carlow. (A.H.) XXV.

Keane

ANCIENTLY : O'Cein

VARIANTS : Kane, Cain, (O'Cahan)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Keane	202	GAL, CLA, KER, MAY.
Keany	33	LEI, GAL, DON.

ORIGINS : The 85th most common surname of Ireland.

O'Keane (O'Cein) is recorded as anciently being chief of Ui' Fodhladha on the borkers of Tipperary and Waterford, and is cited as such in O'Heerins Topographical Poems.

Other Septs:

MacKean (MacEain) - Of Scottish origins, located in Derry and Donegal.

MacCahan (McCathain) - Was also altered to MacKeane, and originates in western Co. Clare.

O'Cahan - Of the province of Ulster is also found as O'Keane.

CONSULT

O'Kearney

ANCIENTLY : O'Catharnaigh, O'Cearnaigh

VARIANTS : Carney, Keherney, (McCarney in Cavan)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Carney	49	MAY.
Kearney	147	DUB, COR, ANT.

ORIGINS : O'Catharnaigh - Chiefs of Teffia, Co. Meath, extending into Co. Offaly. The chief of the name was known as "The Fox," an ancient nickname. Note the placename of "Ballymacarney in Meath. Baron Kilcoursey was of this line.

O'Cearnaigh - (1) A Dalcassion sept settling anciently in Cashel. (2) "Carney" of Connaught, Co. Mayo, of the Ui' Fiachrach, near Moynulla and Balla.

Coat of Arms: Argent three lions rampant gules, on a chief azure between two pheons of the first a gauntletted hand fessways or holding a dagger erect proper pommel and hilt or.

Crest: A gauntletted hand holding a dagger as in the Arms.

CONSULT Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

Keating, Keaty

ANCIENTLY : Ceitinn, Cethyn.

VARIANTS : (MacKeating in Ulster - unknown origins)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Keating	130	COR, KER, TIP, DUB.

ORIGINS : Other known locations: Wexford.

Of Norman origins, settling early in Co. Wexford spreading into Co. Leix and the Province of Leinster. The family apparently became quite Irish due to several descriptions of them by the English as "ill disposed rebels" of Carlow, and enlistments by the family in King James II army.

The name "Keaty" of the Limerick city area has been corrupted to Keating as well.

Well known individuals of the name:

Dr. Geoffrey Keating (1570-1644) - Priest and Author.

John Keating (1635-1695) - Lord Chief Justice in the 1689 parliament.

Coat of Arms: Argent a saltire gules between four nettle leaves vert.

Crest: A boar statant gules armed and hoofed or holding in the mouth a nettle leaf vert.

CONSULT

Records of the Keating Family. Thomas Mathews.

Nicholastown Castle and Its Owners. J.F. McCarthy. (Clonmel) I. 1954.

O'Keeffe

ANCIENTLY : O'Caoimh (of Caemh)

VARIANTS : O'Keefe

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Keeffe	110	COR, WAT, KER, KIL.
O'Keeffe	83	COR, LIM, DUB.

ORIGINS : Pobal O'Keefe, territory of the sept, stands as a reminder of their origins and present day residence in Co. Cork.

Art Caemh, son of the King of Munster (902), is the man from whom the name is taken.

Well known individuals of the name:

Father Eoghan (Owen) O'Keefe (1656-1726) - President of the Bards of Northern Cork.

John O'Keefe (1747-1833) - Playwright. His daughter Adelaide O'Keefe, authoress.

Constantine O'Keefe (1671-1745) - General Patrick O'Keefe (1740-1809) - Both of the Irish Brigades in France.

Coat of Arms: Vert a lion rampant or, in chief two dexter hands couped at the wrist erect and apaumee of the last.

Crest: A griffin passant or holding in the dexter claw a sword proper.

CONSULT

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

O'Keenan

ANCIENTLY : O'Cianain

VARIANTS : MacKeenan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Keenan	103	ANT, MON, DUB, DOW.

ORIGINS : Historians to the Maquires of Fermanagh according the the Four Masters, the family was quite prominent in the middle ages as clergy as well.

Also mentioned in the Annals were:

Adam O'Cianain, Canon of Lisgool (Co. Fermanagh).

Rory O'Keenan, Chief Scribe for the Book of Magauran.

Other known locations: Oriel (Fermanagh, Monaghan, Louth).

Well known individuals of the name:

Frank Keenan (1859-1929) - American actor, son of an Irish emigrant.

Sir Norbert Keenan (b. 1866) - Australian politician.

CONSULT

O'Kelleher

ANCIENTLY : O'Ceileachair

VARIANTS : Keller (also of German-Austrian descent)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Kelleher	92	COR, KER.
Kelliher	24	

ORIGINS : Descended from Ceileachair, nephew of Brian Bor[illegible], the main families left their home in Co. Clare in the 1300's moving into Co. Cork and Kerry where they remain to this day.

Well known individual of the name: Monsignor Keller of Cloyne, prominent in Co. Cork.

CONSULT

O'Kelly

ANCIENTLY : Ceallach

VARIANTS : Keely, Queally, Keily, Kellye, Kehilly, Kelley, Kellie.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Kelly	1242	DUB, GAL, MAY, ROS, COR.
Kealy	18	KIL.
O'Kelly	9	

ORIGINS : The surname O'Kelly springs from the personal name of "Ceallach" in earlier days and carries with it the meaning of "war" or "contention."

Descended from Milesius, King of the Celtic race in Ireland, the name Kelly is the second most populous name of Ireland. Several completely distinct septs of O'Kellys were founded in Ireland, which accounts for the great numbers of Kellys living today.

The most prominant Kellys were those of Ui Maine who descended from a chieftain in 874 A.D. Although the various septs of the family bear separate arms, all have the green enfield as their crest, and this great animal was adopted as such after the Battle of Clontarf (1014) when it rose from the sea to guard a fallen kinsman.

The O'Kellys held the title of high treasurers of Connacht and possessed numerous castles in Co. Galway and Co. Roscommon. With the coming of the Norman invasions, the power of the O'Kellys began to decline from its previously prominent position. The O'Kelly of Gallagh, however, retained his title into modern times.

Ancient Kelly burial grounds are located at Clonmacnois and Kilconell.

Other O'Kelly septs are found in: Breagh (County Meath & North Co. Dublin), Ulster (County Derry, Barony of Loughinsholin), Leighe (County Laois), Gallen (Co. Laois), Magh Druchtain (Co. Laois, Ui Teigh (Northern Co. Wicklow), OgCeallaigh (Co. Sligo, Templeboy Parish), Corca Laoigdhe (Southwest Co. Cork), Clanbrasil MacCoolechan (Co. Down).

Often styled as princes of Ui Maine, some O'Kelly castles are to be found at Aughrim, Garbally, Monivea, Maylough, and Castle Kelly in Co. Galway. Co. Roscommon held castles at Athlone, Athleague, Crobeg, Galy and Shryne of the O'Kellys.

CONSULT

ANCIENTLY : Coat of Arms: Azure a tower triple towered supported by two lions rampant argent, as many chains descending from the

VARIANTS : battlements between the lions' legs or.

Crest: On a ducal coronet or an enfield vert.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Motto: Turris Fortis Mihi Deus.

ORIGINS :

The O'Kellys of Gallagh, Counts of the Holy Roman Empire. Richard J. Kelly. (G) III. 1903-04.

Notes on the Family of O'Kelly. Richard J. Kelly. (G) IV. 1905-06.

The Pedigree of Maria Anna O'Kelly, Countess of Marcolini. (G) IV. 1905-06.

Notes on the O;Kelly Family. E. Festus Kelly. (G) XVI. 1934-35.

Memorial Religieux de la Famille O'Kelly, Orginaire d'Irlande. Brussels. 1875.

Tribes and Customs of Hy Many. John O'Donovan. App. A. Dublin. 1873.

That Kelly Family (The Kellys of Philadelphia). John McCallum. New York. 1957.

The Kelly Book. Irish Genealogical Foundation. 1981.

Mac Kenna

ANCIENTLY : Mac Cionaoith

VARIANTS : Kennagh, Ginnaw (Co. Kerry)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Kenna	21	DUB, TIP.
MacKenna	201	ANT, MON, TYR, KER, ARM, DUB, LOU.

ORIGINS : Descendant of the southern Ui' Neill families, their hereditary lands are centered in the barony of Trough in Co. Monaghan. In the 1600's the family established itself in the parish of Maghera, Co. Down.

In Monaghan they were known as "Lords of Truagh," and O'Dugan's Topographical Poems places them in Meath anciently.

The family has several members who have attained prominence in the field of literature.

Other known locations: Southern Ulster.

Well known individual of the name: Patrick MacKenna (b. 1765?) Of Maghera. Supporter of Wolfe-Tone and Bologne shipbuilder.

Coat of Arms: Vert a fess argent between three lions heads affrontee or.

Crest: A salmon naiant proper.

CONSULT

The MacKennas of Trough. C.E. Swezey. Huntingdon, N.Y. 1972.

The Origin of the MacKennas. Anthony Mathews. Dublin. 1972.

O'Kennedy

ANCIENTLY : O'Cinneide

VARIANTS : Quenedy (France)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Kennedy	446	TIP, DUB, ANT.

ORIGINS : Descended from Cinneide, nephew of Brian Boru, the O'Kennedys are a Dalcassion sept. Anciently of territories near Killaloe, Killokennedy parish remains as a reminder of such.

Forced by the O'Briens and MacNamaras into new territories, they became "Lords of Ormond" some 200 years prior to the Norman Invasions. They remained powerful into the 16th century.

The family divided into three branches:

1. Don (brown)
2. Fionn (fair)
3. Rua (red)

Also a name of Scottish origins, a branch of the above mentioned family settled in Antrim around 1600, making origins of the name unclear in that area.

The 16th most popular name in Ireland, the majority of Kennedys in modern times hail from Co. Tipperary.

Coat of Arms: Sable three helmets in profile proper.

Crest: An arm embowed vested azure holding a scymitar all proper.

CONSULT

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

A Family of Kennedy of Clogher and Londonderry c. 1600-1938. Major F.M.E. Kennedy. Taunton. 1938.

Records of Four Tipperary Septs... M. Callanan. Galway. 1938.

O'Kenny

ANCIENTLY : O'Cionnaoith

VARIANTS : Kenny, Keaney, Keany, Kinney, Kilkenny.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Kenny	216	DUB, GAL, ROS.

ORIGINS : The main sept of the name in the Galway/Roscommon area is of Ui Maine origins and remains in these counties today.

A nearly vanished sept in Co. Tyrone also bore the name in earlier days.

In Co. Down, the name is also said to be derived from the O'Coinne sept of Ulster.

Also of English origins, Nicholas Kenny, who served under Elizabeth I as Escheator, settled in Wexford.

Through intermarriage they acquired lands in Galway and Roscommon and descendants remain to this day.

CONSULT

Pedigree of the Kenney Family of Kilclogher, Co. Galway.
J.C.F. Kenney. Dublin 1868.

Mac Keogh

ANCIENTLY : MacEochaidh

VARIANTS : Kehoe (Wexford), Keogh.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McKeough	13	WES.
Keogh	96	DUB.
Kehoe	51	WEX.

ORIGINS : Three separate septs of the name:

1. Near Limerick - Ballymackeogh in Co. Tipperary.
2. Of Ui' Maine - Descended from Eochaidh O'Kelly. Lords of Moyfinn, barony of Athlone, Co. Roscommon. This territory was known as Keogh's Country. The place name Keoghville, (Parish of Taghmaconnell) stands as a memorial to the sept.
3. Of Leinster - Most prominent sept of the name. Anciently of northern Co. Kildare they spread to Wicklow and Wexford as well.

Note the placename of Ballymackeogh in Co. Tipperary.

Well known individual of the name: Capt. Myles Walter Keough (1840-1876) - Union officer who died in the battle of the "Little Bighorn." His horse was the sole survivor of the battle.

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion rampant gules, in the dexter chief a dexter hand couped at the wrist and in the sinister a crescent both of the second.

Crest: A boar passant azure.

CONSULT

Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

Mac Keon

ANCIENTLY : MacEoghain (son of John or Owen)

VARIANTS : MacKeown (likely a Scottish origin)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McKeown	119	ANT, DOW, ARM, LOND, LOU.
McKeon	40	LEI, LOU.
McKeone	12	

ORIGINS : Most anciently of Co. Sligo, the family is considered to be of neighboring Co. Leitrim in later times. A branch in Co. Galway is cited in the barony of Kiltartan on lands referred to as "Termon Brian MacOwen."

The MacKeown spelling found in Ulster is also used by descendants of Scottish settlers (circa the 1200's), who settled in the Antrim Glens. Note the placenames of Keonbrook in Leitrim and Ballymakeown by Belfast.

Coat of Arms - MacKeown: Argent two lions rampant combatant sable supporting a dexter hand couped at the wrist gules, in chief four mullets of eight points gules, in base waves of the sea therein a salmon naiant all proper.

Crest: An arm embowed in chain armour the hand holding a sword blade wavy all proper.

CONSULT

O'Kieran

ANCIENTLY : O'Ceirin

VARIANTS : Kearon (Wicklow), Kerrane (Mayo), Kearns (Mayo), Kerin (Clare).

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Kerrane	7	MAY, GAL.
Kerin	17	KER, CLA.
Kearns	87	DUB, MAY.
Kearon	7	WIC.

ORIGINS : Anciently chiefs of the barony of Costello in Co. Mayo. Falling in prominence during the medieval ages, they are later mentioned:

1. As Erenaghs of Killaghtee - Diocese of Raphoe in 1609.
2. In Co. Sligo - On the 1659 census by Petty.
3. In Co. Mayo - Remaining in modern times as residents. The name has been corrupted to Kearns here.
4. In Co. Clare - In the 1400's, becoming noteworthy into modern times. The name has corrupted to Kerin here. The tombstone of Tiege O'Kerin (1685) is at Ennis Abbey.

Well known individual of the name: Richard Kerens (1842-1916) - Born of Co. Meath parents, he helped build the American railroads.

Coat of Arms: Vert on a chevron argent three leopards faces gules.

Crest: A demi-lion rampant sable holding in the dexter paw a sword erect argent pommel and hilt or.

Motto: Fidens et Constans

CONSULT

Killian

ANCIENTLY : (Coilean?), Mac Coilin.

VARIANTS : Killen

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Killian	13	ROS, WES.

ORIGINS : County Westmeath and the southern part of County Roscommon appear to be hereditary centers of the name. It is seldom found elsewhere as evidenced by the 1891 birth index and modern records.

Killeen appears to be an earlier spelling. Killian is found in Clare and Galway, and Killion is more common in Westmeath and Roscommon.

CONSULT

Kilpatrick

ANCIENTLY : MacGiolla Phadraig

VARIANTS : Gilpatrick, Fitzpatrick

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Kilpatrick	24	ANT.

ORIGINS : The meaning is literally "servant" or "son of" St. Patrick. The original Irish form being Macgilpatrick, it was sometimes anglicized Fitzpatrick as well.

Kilpatrick is also found in Ulster (usually of Scottish origin).

Coat of Arms - Fitzpatrick: Sable a saltire argent, on a chief azure three fleur-de-lis or.

Crest: A dragon reguardant vert surmounted of a lion guardant sable dexter paw resting on the dragon's head.

Other known locations: Leix (Queen's Co.).

(See Fitzpatrick.)

CONSULT

King

ANCIENTLY : (Synonym for MacConraoi-O'Conraoi), O'Kinga

VARIANTS : Conry

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
King	203	GAL, DUB, ANT, MAY, LIM.

ORIGINS : Mac an Righ in Gaelic meant son of King, therefore similar sounding names were anglicized as King.

O'Cionga (O'Kinga) was a Gaelic sept located on Inismor Island in Lough Ree and held sway in Co. Westmeath.

The MacConroys of Moycullen in particular use the name King, and in the 1800's were centered around Ballymaconry, Kingstown.

King is a well known British name as well.

CONSULT Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

O'Kinneally

ANCIENTLY : O'Cinnfhaelidh

VARIANTS : Kennelly, Quinnelly.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Kenneally	10	COR, WAT, TIP.
Kennelly	9	

ORIGINS : The Norman Invasions appear to have marked the fall of this family for they are seldom to be found mentioned after the Norman conquest. The family has been found in Munster widely scattered.

Other known locations: Barony of Connello, Co. Limerick.

Well known individual of the name: William Kenealy (1828-1876) - Mayor of Kilkenny.

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion rampant gules, in the dexter chief a dexter hand couped at the wrist and in the sinister a crescent both of the second.

Crest: A boar passant azure.

CONSULT

McKinney

ANCIENTLY : Mac Coinnigh

VARIANTS : MacKenny (in Monaghan), MacKinney.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McKinney	42	ANT, TYR.

ORIGINS : Although cited at times past in Co. Monaghan (Spelled as MacKenny), the name is almost exclusively found in Co. Tyrone and West Co. Antrim in modern times when spelled MacKinney.

Also cited as a chief clan in Louth of ancient times as MacKenny.

The MacKennys (or Keaneys) were mentioned as numerous in Leitrim as well, in ancient days.

CONSULT

Genealogical Office, Dublin Castle, Dublin.

Pedigree of the Kenney Family of Kilclogher, Co. Galway. J.C.F. Kenney. Dublin. 1868.

Kinsella

ANCIENTLY : Cinnsealach

VARIANTS : Kinsellagh

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Kinsella	81	DUB, WEX, WIC, KIL.

ORIGINS : The family is descended from Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster (1134-1171). Dermots son, Enna Cinnsealach, is the man from whom the name is taken. They remain prominent in the areas surrounding northern Co. Wexford.

Other known locations: The Kinnsellaghs, barony of Gorey, County Wexford.

Well known individual of the name: Thomas Kinsella (1822-1884) - Born in Co. Wexford and traveled to America to become the editor of the "Brooklyn Daily Eagle."

Coat of Arms: Argent a fess gules between in chief two garbs of the last and in base a lion passant sable.

CONSULT

O'Kirwan

ANCIENTLY : O'Ciardubhain

VARIANTS : Kerovan, Kyrvan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Kirwan	59	DUB, WEX, TIP.

ORIGINS : One of the 14 Tribes of Galway, ranking 2nd to the Lynch family. Of Gaelic origins, they are of the house of Heremon.

Earlier recorded as Erenaghs of Co. Louth, they appear in Galway in the 1400's.

Coat of Arms: Argent a chevron sable between three Cornish choughs proper.

Crest: A Cornish chough proper.

CONSULT

Pedigree of the Kirwan Family. Denis Agar, Richard Kirwan, and John Waters Kirwan.

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

Lacy, de Lacy

ANCIENTLY : de Leis (Norman)

VARIANTS : Lacey

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Lacey	21	WEX, DUB, GAL.
Lacy	19	
Leacy	8	

ORIGINS : Hugo de Lacy (d. 1186) was the first of the name of note. He received the Kingdow of Meath.

Co. Limerick "Lacy" families may be corrupt forms of Leash as well.

Bruff and Bruree, and Ballingarry are ancestral homelands, now lost to the family completely.

Coat of Arms: Or a lion rampant purpure.

CONSULT

The Roll of the House of Lacy. E. deLacy-Bellingarri. Baltimore. 1928.

Notes on the Family of DeLacy in Ireland. Nicholas J. Synnott. (R) II. 1919.

Lally, O'Mullally

ANCIENTLY : O'Maolalaidh

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Lally	34	MAY, GAL.
Mullally	8	

ORIGINS : Of Ui' Maine, they were constantly at war with the Burkes after the Norman Invasions. Originally they were just south of the Tuam area of Galway.

Several Bishops and clergy of the name became prominent in the area in the 13th-17th century.

Coat of Arms: Argent three eagles displayed gules two and one each holding in the beak a sprig of laurel proper between as many crescents, one and two azure.

Crest: An eagle as in the Arms.

CONSULT

A Sept of O'Maolale (or Lally) of Hy-Maine. Miss J. Martyn. (G) IV. 1905-06.

History of the Mullally and Lally Clann. D.P. O'Mullally. Chicago. 1941.

O'Lalor

ANCIENTLY : O'Leathlobhair (Descendant of Half-Leper?)

VARIANTS : Lalor, Lawler, Lawlor.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Lawlor	59	DUB, QUE, WIC, WEX.
Lalor	42	
Lawler	41	

ORIGINS : One of the 7 septs of Leix with their original territory surrounding the Rock of Dunamase in Co. Leix.

The chiefs of the 7 Septs were in 1609 transplanted to Co. Kerry as a result of a settlement made at Lalor's Mills.

The name remains most numerous in areas surrounding Co. Leix to this day.

Other known locations: Kilkenny.

Well known individuals of the name:

Alice Lalor (1766-1846) - "Mother Teresa" of religious prominence in the U.S.A.

Peter Lalor (1823-1889) - Speaker of the Legislative Council of Victoria, Australia.

Coat of Arms: Or a lion rampant guardant gules.

CONSULT Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

O'Leary

ANCIENTLY : O'Laoghaire

VARIANTS : Lairy, Leery.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Leary	186	COR, KER, WEX.
O'Leary	64	COR, KER, LIM.

ORIGINS : Driven by the Anglo-Norman Invasions from Corca Laoidhe in southwest Co. Cork into Inchigeela (Co. Cork) they were chiefs under the MacCarthys of Muskerry. Note the placenames of Ballyleary (2), in Co. Cork.

They were found prominent in Pettys census of 1654 in their traditional lands as well.

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion passant in base gules, in chief a ship of three masts sable sails set proper from the stern the flag of St. George flotant.

Crest: Out of a ducal coronet or an arm in armour embowed holding a sword proper pommel and hilt or.

CONSULT

O'Lee

ANCIENTLY : O'Laidhigh, O'Laoidhigh, MacLaoidhigh, Mac an Leagh.

VARIANTS : Lea, MacLee, MacAlea

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Lee	120	ANT, DUB, GAL, LIM.

ORIGINS : Of English origins as well as Gaelic, with British settlements well established in the early 1600's in Co. Tipperary.

Irish septs of the name:

1. O'Laidhigh - Of Connacht, Co. Galway. Hereditary physicians to the O'Flaherty sept. Erenaghs of Annaghdown. (O'Lee, MacLee.)
2. O'Laoidhigh - Of Munster, Co. Cork and Limerick.
3. MacLaoidhigh - of Co. Leix (spelled Lea on the 1659 census by Petty).
4. Mac an Leagha - Of Ulster. (MacAlee, MacAlea, Lee.)

CONSULT

An Irish Medical Family: Mac An Leagha. Rev. Paul Walsh. Irish Men of Learning. Ch XIV. Dublin. 1947.

O'Lenaghan, O'Leanachain

ANCIENTLY : O' Leannachain, O'Luingeachan

VARIANTS : Linehan, Lenihan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Linehan	50	COR.
Lenaghan	18	ANT.
Lenihan	14	LIM.

ORIGINS : In Co. Roscommon, Tuamna, barony of Boyle. Here in Roscommon, the Annals record a family including Maelciaran O'Lenechan (d. 1249).

In more modern times of Co. Limerick and Tipperary the spelling is most often as Lenihan.

Well known individual of the name: Maurice Lenihan (1811-1895) - Author of History of Limerick.

CONSULT

O'Lennon, Linnane

ANCIENTLY : O'Leannain, O'Lionnain

VARIANTS : Leonard, Linnane

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Lennon	103	DUB, ARM.
Linane (10)	15	LIM, KER, CLA.
Linnane (5)		

ORIGINS : Also an English surname, several Irish septs are as follows:

1. Lennane/Linane - Of Corca Laoidhe to be found by Glandore Harbour.
2. O'Leanain - Originating in the Ui' Maine (Hy Many) territory where the name is Lennon in Galway, and Co. Mayo as Leonard originating from a Hy Fiachra sept.
3. Of Fermanagh - As O'Lennon who were Erenaghs of Lisgoole and very prominent in church affairs in the 1300's and 1400's according to the Four Masters.

The history and genealogy of the name is difficult to trace due to the many septs which have corrupted their spelling to similar forms.

CONSULT

O'Lonergan

ANCIENTLY : O'Longargain

VARIANTS : Londrigan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Lonergan	49	TIP, WAT.
Londrigan	5	KIL, COR.

ORIGINS : Anciently of northeast Thomand in Tipperary, the Norman invasions (The Butler family in particular) drove them south to Cashel and Cahir. The chief of the name resided near Cahir.

In southeast Galway a family of the name at Ballynabanaby, parish of Kilgerril, were harpers to O'Kelly of Ui' Maine documented in the early 1400's.

Coat of Arms: Argent on a chevron azure three estoiles or, in chief two arrows in saltire points downwards gules.

Crest: An arrow in pale point downwards distilling drops of blood all proper.

CONSULT

O'Lorcan, O'Lorcain

ANCIENTLY : O' Lorcain

VARIANTS : Larkin, Lorkan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Larkin	85	DUB, ARM, GAL, TIP.

ORIGINS : Several septs of the name have existed, some of which are:

1. O'Lorcain of Leinster - Of the barony of Forth in Co. Wexford prior to the Anglo-Norman invasions.
2. Of Armagh - Of Oriel Ui Lorcain, chiefs of Farney and West Ui Breasail.
3. Of Galway - Of the same descent as the O'Maddens.
4. Of Tipperary - Where the chief of the name was Erenagh of Lorrha.

CONSULT

Lough Lorkan and the O'Lorkans. T.G.F. Paterson. Seanchas Ardmhacha, III. 1959.

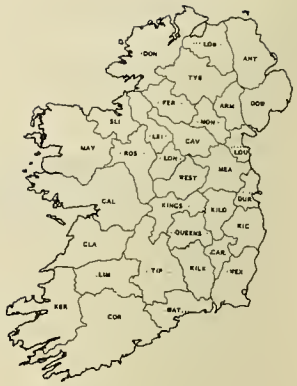
Mac Loughlin

ANCIENTLY : O' Maoilsheachlainn

VARIANTS : MacLaughlin, MacGloughlin, Melaghlin.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McLaughlin	191	ANT, DON, LOND, TYR, DUB.
McLoughlin	170	



ORIGINS : Two great independent MacLoughlin septs exist:

1. Of O'Maoilsheachlainn - Known as O'Melaghlin up to the 1700's. Descended from Malachy II, King of Ireland (980-1002 A.D.) who was usurped by the great Brian Boru. The name is said to mean "follower of Seachlainn (i.e. St. Secundinus). The Norman invasions reduced their prominence and the decline continued until the end of the 17th century, where the surviving surname has become McLoughlin (of Meath).

2. Of MacLochlainn - (Son of Lochlainn) Of northern Ui Neill in Innishowen, Co. Donegal. Prominent today in Co. Derry as well. The spelling of MacGloughlin is found in modern times in Dublin. The decline of this Ulster sept began in 1241 with the ill fortunes of war. The Composition Book of Connacht (1585 A.D.) includes a branch of this family which settled in Leitrim under the leadership of the O'Rourkes.

Coat of Arms: Per fess, the chief two coats, 1st, argent three dexter hands couped at the wrist gules, 2nd argent a lion rampant rules armed and langued azure, the base wavy azure and argent a salmon naiant proper.

Coat of Arms: Per fess azure and gules, in chief a lion rampant or between two swords erect argent pommels and hilts or, in base three crescents argent.

CONSULT

The MacLaughlins or Clan Owen. T.P. Brown. Boston. 1879.

O'Loughlin

ANCIENTLY : Lochlain

VARIANTS : O'Loghlen, O'Lochlainn, O'Laughlin, Loughlin.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
O'Loughlin	40	CLA, DUB.
Loughlin	39	LEI, DUB, KIL.
Laughlin	14	TYR, ANT.

ORIGINS : Traditionally known as the "Lords of the Burren," this great name comes from County Clare, Ireland, which remains O'Loughlin country to this day.

Lochlain (A.D. 953) is the man from whom the name is first taken. Originally from the same clan as the O'Conners, two brothers split the clan with one forming the O'Loughlins and the other the O'Conners in the 10th century.

Corcomroe was the area inhabited by this clan. The O'Loughlins ruled over the east (or "The Burren" which means "the rocky place," a name which aptly suits this area of County Clare), the O'Conners ruled the west.

O'Loughlins retained all of the Burren until the invasions of Cromwell. The occupiers remarked that the Burren "had not enough water to drown a man, wood enough to hang him, nor dirt enough to bury him." This statement may have been true for an army, but the O'Loughlins thrive there to this day, none the less.

Early O'Loughlin ancestors likely came from northern Ireland and were not a Dalcassion sept as often claimed. An ancient Dane or Viking heritage is also possible stemming from similarities in the word origins of Lochlainn.

Most powerful on the shores of the Atlantic and Galway Bay in earlier times, the Burren is still the heart of O'Loughlin country.

Coat of Arms: Gules a man in complete armour facing the sinister shooting an arrow from a bow all proer.

Crest: An anchor entwined with a cable proper.

Motto: Anchora Salutis.

CONSULT

The O'Loughlin Book. Irish Genealogical Foundation. 1981.

History & Topography of County Clare. J. Frost. Dublin. 1883.

O'Lowry

ANCIENTLY : O'Labhradha

VARIANTS : Lavery

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Lowry	71	DUB, ANT, DOW.
Lavery	51	ARM, ANT, DOW.

ORIGINS : In medieval days they are recorded in Co. Down, near Moira. Three branches of the sept were:

1. Baun-Lavery - From ban meaning white.
2. Roe-Lavery - From rua meaning red.
3. Trin-Lavery - From trean meaning strong. Sometimes anglicized as Armstrong.

CONSULT

The Corry and Lowry Families. Earl of Belmore. 1881.

The History of the Two Ulster Manors of Finagh in the County of Tyrone and Coole. Earl of Belmore. London. Dublin. 1881

Lynch

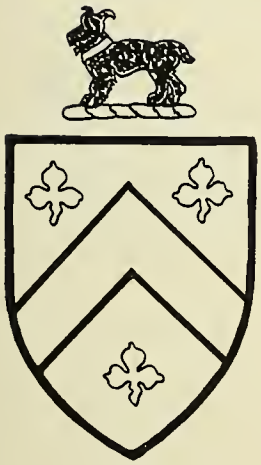
ANCIENTLY : O'Loingsigh, de Lench (of Norman origins).

VARIANTS : Leyns, Lynchahan, Lynchy.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Lynch	444	COR, CAV, DUB, KER, LIM, CLA, MEA, LOND.

ORIGINS : The Norman name settled in Meath, where some of the family moved to Galway in the 1400's. (Note the placename of Lynches Knock in Meath.) The Norman family became one of the 14 Tribes of Galway, having over 80 mayors of the name in Galway City. In 1484, Dominick Lynch received the city's charter under Richard III. Stephen, his son, received the "Wardenship" of Galway from Pope Innocent VIII. James Lynch, mayor in 1493 hung his own son for the breaking of the law which required the death penalty. The story is commemorated at the gate of the "old jail" to this day, put down in writing at that location. Lynch's Castle, built in 1320, can be found close by.



The Gaelic families of the name spring from several distinct locations. Thomand, Sligo, & Breffny, amoung others. The Cork, Kerry, and Limerick families most likely came from the Corca Loaidhe and Owney area.

In Co. Donegal the "Lynch" name is used by a completely distinct sept, formerly "MacLoingseachAin (Lynche haun).

Coat of Arms: Azure a chevron between three trefoils slipt or.

Crest: A lynx passant azure collared or.

Well known individuals of the name:

Col. Charles Lynch (1736-1796) - Who inspired the terminology of "Lynching" or "Lynch Law" in America.

Thomas Lynch (1749-1779) - A 3rd generation American, who was the youngest signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Count John Baptist Lynch - A peer of France. His grandfather came to France with James II.

CONSULT

Genealogical Memoranda Relating to the Family of Lynch. London. 1883.

Lunch Record Containing Biographical Sketches of Men of the Name Lynch 16th to 20th Century. E.C. Lynch. New York. 1925.

Account of the Lynch Family and of the Memorable Events of Tow Town of Galway. John Lynch (G) 1913-14.

Lyons

ANCIENTLY : O'Liathain, O'Laighen, O'Laoghain

VARIANTS : Lehane (Cork), Lane, Lyne (Kerry-Galway).

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Lyons	210	MAY, COR, GAL, DUB, KER, LIM.
Lehane	30	COR, KER.
Lane	69	COR, LIM.
Lyne	17	KER.

ORIGINS : Irish Septs:

1. O'Liathain - Of Ui' Fidhgheinte (Co. Limerick). Settled in Co. Cork in the barony of Barrymore. The place name of "Castle Lyons" village marks an area prominent in the past. The name is also found as "Lehane" near Court-macsherry.
2. O'Laighin - Of Co. Galway, centered near Kilconnell. Said to be of Firbolg origins according to O'Flahertys Ogygia.
3. O'Laoghain - The Lanes of Trughancmy, Co. Kerry. Per O'Donovan.
4. The Scottish name of "Lyon" is found in Ireland as well.

Well known individual of the name: Mathew Lyons (1746-1822) - Of Co. Wicklow. Became a general in the U.S. Revolutionary War as well as a Congressman.

CONSULT

Historical Notice of the Lyons Family and Their Connections. John C. Lyons. Ladestown. 1853.

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

Mac Lysaght

ANCIENTLY : Mac Giolla Iasachta

VARIANTS : Lysaght, Lysat.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Lysaght	13	LIM.

ORIGINS : Said to be a subsept of the Dalcassian sept of O'Brian in Thomand. Originally found in Ennistymon, the family is mainly in Co. Clare and Limerick today. A branch is also found in Co. Cork, founded by a 17th century protestant convert.

MacAleese, a similar sounding name found in Co. Derry is of completely different origins (Mac Giolla Iasachta).

Coat of Arms: Argent three spears erect in fess gules, on a chief azure a lion passant guardant or.

Crest: Issuant from clouds a naked arm bent holding a short sword by the blade all proper.

Motto: Conjnam O Sia

CONSULT

Short Study of a Transplanted Family in the 17th century. E. MacLysaght. Dublin. 1935.

O'Madden

ANCIENTLY : O'Madain (O'Madadhain anciently).

VARIANTS : Madigan, MacAvaddy.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Madden	107	GAL, COR, DUB, ANT.
Madigan	27	LIM, CLA.

ORIGINS : A Ui' Maine sept of Co. Galway, running from the Shannon River into Co. Offaly. The chief of the name ruled there, even after the Anglo-Norman invasions under the deBurgo (Burke) family.

We find the surnames, Madden and MacAvaddy, particularly in Co. Mayo, coming from Mac a' Mhadaidh.

In Co. Antrim and Derry, the Madigan family has changed the name to Madden as well. They are thought to have come originally from the Galway Madden family, and in modern times reside in Counties Clare and Limerick.

An English family of the name gave the name to Maddenton, in Co. Kildare. The Maddens of Athgarret, also of Co. Kildare, are of the Gaelic sept in Galway.

Coat of Arms: Sable a falcon volant seizing a mallard argent.

The Madan Family and Maddens in Ireland and England. F. Madan. London. 1933.

Records of the O'Maddens of Hy Many. T.M. Madden. Dublin. 1894.

The O'Maddens of Silanchia or Siol Anmachadha, and their descendants from the Milesian Invasion of Ireland to the Present Time. Thomas More Madden. (G) 1900-02.

CONSULT

Maguire

ANCIENTLY : Maguidhir

VARIANTS : MacGuire

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Maguire	248	FER, DUB, CAV, DON.

ORIGINS : The primary residence of this surname is in Co. Fermanagh, appearing there predominately from the 1400's on.

A Maguire was the Baron of Enniskillen and fought with James the II against William of Orange. The family remained Barons up to 1795 in the court of France.

Many of the name joined the Wild Geese, fighting in the armies of France and Austria.

The 39th most popular name of Ireland.

O'Dugan cites the MacGuires as chief of Fermanagh, and they are said to have been inaugurated on the borders of Cavan and Fermanagh, on Cuilcagh, a mountain near Swanlibar (or at Lisnaskea).

Cited as chiefs of all of Fermanagh, the county was known as MacGuires Country.

Coat of Arms: Vert a white horse fully caparisoned thereon a knight in complete armour on his helmet a plume of ostrich feathers his right hand brandishing a sword all proper.

(See MacGuire.)

CONSULT

The Maguires and Irish learning. Rev. Paul Walsh. Irish Men of Learning. Ch. XIX. Dublin. 1947.

Irish Chiefs and Leaders. Rev. Paul Walsh. Chs. i-ii. Dublin. 1960.

A Maguire Family in France. Pierre Chauvet. (Clogher) V.

Maher, Meagher

ANCIENTLY : O'Meachair (Michair=kindly)

VARIANTS : O'Meachair, Magher, Maheir, Mara.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Maher	176	TIP, DUB, KIL.
Meagher	27	

ORIGINS : The 87th most common name in Ireland.

Anciently powerful chiefs in the barony of Ikerrin, Co. Tipperary. One of the top 100 surnames of Ireland, they are recorded by O'Heerin as follows:

> "Powerfully they have peopled their land,
> The O'Meaghers of the land of Ui Carin,
> The tribe who dwell at Bearnan Eli,
> It is right to extol their fame."

Related to the O'Carrols of Ely, they have remained on their traditional lands to the present day, having settled there originally, prior to the Norman invasions.

CONSULT

Historical Notices of the O'Meaghers of Ikerrin. J.C. O'Meagher. London. 1887.

Mac Mahon

ANCIENTLY : MacMathghamha (MacMahuna)

VARIANTS : Mahon, Maghan, Mann, Maughan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McMahon	241	CLA, MON, LIM, DUB.
Mahon	87	DUB, GAL.

ORIGINS : The two Irish septs of the name:

1. Of Co. Clare - From "Mahon" son of Murtagh Mor O'Brien, King of Ireland (d. 1119). "The MacMahon," Chief of the name, and last to be innaugurated, died at the battle of Kinsale in 1602. Their land in western Co. Clare, was "Corcabaskin."
2. Of Ulster - Lords of Oriel in the 13th century, their fortunes rose as the O'Carrolls declined. Co. Monaghan remains MacMahon country to this day.
Mahon is also found as a shortened form of the name, although it is of completely distinct origins elsewhere.

The name is said to come from the Irish word for "bear."

Coat of Arms: Argent an ostrich sable holding in the beak a horse shoe or.

Crest: A naked arm embowed holding a sword all proper the point pierced through a fleur-de-lis sable.

Motto: So Dorn Dona Dhubhfuiltibh

Coat of Arms: Argent three lions passant reguardant in pale bules armed and langued azure.

Crest: A dexter arm in armour embowed proper garnished or holding in the hand a sword both proper pommel and hilt or.

CONSULT

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

The MacMahons of Monaghan (1500-1603). Philip Moore. (Clogher) 1955-62. I, II, IV.

O'Mahony

ANCIENTLY : O'Mathghamhna (O'Mahuna)

VARIANTS : Mahoney

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Mahony	276	COR, KER, LIM.
O'Mahony	25	COR.

ORIGINS : Princes of the Barony of Kinelmeaky, including the coast line, they held the Rosbrian Castle in southwest Co. Cork.

Mathghamhna, from whom the name is said to be taken, died in the battle of Clontarf in 1014 A.D. His mother was a daughter of the great Brian Boru.

Many of the name have served in the French and Spanish armies.

Well known individuals of the name:

Count Daniel O'Mahoney (d. 1714) - General in the Irish Brigades of France.

John O'Mahony (1816-1877) - Of Kilbeheny. A noted Fenian leader.

Sylvester Mahony (1804-1866) - Poet of Co. Cork.

Coat of Arms: Quarterly, 1st and 4th, or a lion rampant azure; 2nd, per pale argent and gules a lion rampant counterchanged; 3rd, argent a chevron gules between three snakes tongued proper.

Crest: Out of a viscount's coronet or an arm in armour embowed holding a sword proper pommel and hilt or pierced through a fleur-de-lis azure.

CONSULT

A History of the O'Mahony Septs of Kinelmeky and Ivagha. Rev. Canon O'Mahony (C) 1906-10.

The Mahonys of Kerry. (K) 1917-18.

O'Malley

ANCIENTLY : Maille

VARIANTS : Maley, Melia.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Malley	85	MAY, GAL.
Mailey	6	ANT.
O'Malley	30	MAY.

ORIGINS : Known for their exploits at sea in earlier days as their motto suggests.

This name has consistently retained the O' prefix in the majority of cases.

The name remains most populous in Mayo to this day.

Known locations: Co. Mayo, baronies Burrishoole and Murrisk.

Well known individual of the name: Grace O'Malley (1530-1600) - Described many times as a famous sea captain and great supporter of rebellion in the cause of freedom.

They are cited, along with O'Keely as chiefs in the area surrounding Limerick, anciently.

In Mayo, they are spoken of by O'Dugan as follows:

"A good man there never was,
of the O'Malleys, who was not a mariner,
of every weather they are prophets,
tribe of brotherly affection and friendship."

Coat of Arms: Or a boar passant gules.

Crest: A ship with three masts sails set all proper.

Motto: Terra Marique Potens.

O'Malleys between 1607 and 1725. Sir Owen O'Malley. (Galway) XXV. 1952.

O'Malley Papers. (Co. Mayo) (A.H.) XXV.

Genealogy of the O'Mallys of the Owals. Philadelphia. 1913.

Note on the O'Malley Lordship at the Close of the 16th Century. Sir Owen O'Malley. (G) 1950-51.

CONSULT

O'Malone

ANCIENTLY : O'Maoileoin (of St. John)

VARIANTS : Malone

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Malone	100	DUB, WEX, CLA.

ORIGINS : Anciently a sept prominent in Connacht, they are often mentioned along side with "The Abbey of Clonmacnois" to which they furnished many clergy.

Anciently descended from the O'Connors of Connaught, Counties Clare and Wexford are main habitats of modern times for the O'Malones.

Whether the Co. Wexford branch is of the same origins is unknown, but the Clonmacnois family of the name is likely of Co. Clare today.

The O'Malones, a branch of the O'Connors (Kings of Connaught) had large territories in the barony of Brawney in Westmeath. They held the titles of barons of Clan Malone and barons Sunderlin of Lake Sunderlin, in Westmeath as well.

Coat of Arms: Vert a lion rampant or between three mullets argent.

Crest: A man in complete armour in the dexter hand a spear resting on the ground all proper.

Motto: Fidelis ad Urnam.

CONSULT

Mangan

ANCIENTLY : O'Mongain

VARIANTS : Mongan, Manghan, Mangin, Manion.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Mangan	52	DUB, LIM, KER, MAY.
Mongan	6	

ORIGINS : The name is most often found in the form "Mangan" today.

Co. Mayo appears as original homeland for one sept, as does Co. Cork, with Co. Limerick becoming more populated with the name in later days.

The surnames of Manahan (Monahan) and Mannion also corrupt their spelling to the "Mangan" form at times.

O'Mangan is also cited as chief in the parish of Kilmore Moy, in Co. Sligo.

Coat of Arms: Sable a dexter hand appaumee argent between in chief two annulets and in base a crescent or.

Crest: A dexter hand appaumee sable charged with an annulet or.

Motto: Manus Hoec Inimica Tyrannis.

CONSULT

Mannion

ANCIENTLY : O'Mainin

VARIANTS : Mannin, Manning

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Mannion	91	GAL, ROS.
Manning	54	COR, DUB.

ORIGINS : The chief of the name resided at Clogher Castle. Prominent in the country of the Hy Many (Ui' Maine), they are of descent from the Picts, who resided in Ireland before the coming of the Celts or Milesians.

The O'Kellys were the cause of the decline of the Mannions rule, which further declined with the land confiscations in the 17th century.

They remain most concentrated in the Province of Connacht to this day.

The variant Manning is an English surname as well.

CONSULT

Mannix

ANCIENTLY : O'Mainichin (from "Manach" a monk)

VARIANTS : Mannihan, Manahan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Mannix	6	COR, KER.

ORIGINS : A sept of Co. Cork extraction, their territory is recorded around Ross Bay, under the ruling Hennessy's.

Mannix is also used as a corrupted form of MacNeice in the Province of Ulster.

Not a numerous surname in Ireland, Cork and Kerry still bear the family name into modern times.

CONSULT

Mac Manus

ANCIENTLY : MacMaghnuis (son of Magnus)

VARIANTS : Mayne (in Ulster)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McManus	138	FER.

ORIGINS : Irish Septs:

1. Of Co. Roscommon - Descended from Maghnus (d. 1181) son of Turlough O'Conner, King of Ireland. Centered in the parish of Kilronan.
2. Of Co. Fermanagh - Centered around Lough Erne. (Note: Belle Island on Lough Erne was called Ballymacmanus.)

The name is also found in Mayo.

Coat of Arms: Vert a griffin segreant or, in chief three crescents argent.

Crest: A hand and arm couped below the elbow erect holding a long cross proper.

CONSULT

Genealogical Memoranda Relating to the Sotheron Family and the Sept MacManus. C. Sotheron. 1871-73.

Gilmartin, Martin

ANCIENTLY : O'Martain, MacGiolla, Mhartain

VARIANTS : Kilmartin, Marten, Martyn.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Martin	326	ANT, DOW, DUB, MON.
Kilmartin	22	ROS.
Gilmartin	24	SLI, LEI.

ORIGINS : Martin is among the top 50 surnames in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Well known families of the name in Ireland:

1. Co. Galway - One of the 14 Tribes of Galway, they were of Norman origins. (Martin)
2. O'Martain - Common form of the name recorded in the ancient Annals of Ireland. I.E., Giolla Earnain O'Martin (d. 1218), a great Brehon of Ireland; O'Martin is recorded as being Bishop of Clogher as well.
3. MacMartin - Of Co. Tyrone, a branch of the O'Neils.
4. MacGiolla Mhartain - (Gilmartin) Also of Co. Tyrone. Chiefs of the same in the barony of Clogher, spreading into Fermanagh. In more modern days of Leitrim and Sligo.

Coat of Arms: Azure a cross calvary on three grieces argent, the dexter arm terminating in a sun in splendour or, the sinister in a descrescent argent.

Crest: An estoile or.

CONSULT

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

Genealogy of the Family of Martin of Ballinahinch Castle. A.E.S. Martin. Winnipeg. 1890.

O'Meagher

ANCIENTLY : O'Meachair (from Meachar = hospitable)

VARIANTS : Maher

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Maher	176	TIP, DUB, KIL.
Meagher	27	

ORIGINS : Of Co. Tipperary, barony of Ikerron, near Roscrea by Devils Bit Mountain. Of common heritage with the O'Carrolls of Ely, they held their lands through the Norman invasions.

Coat of Arms: Azure two lions rampant combatant or supporting a sword argent pommel and hilt of the second, in base two crescents of the third.

Crest: A falcon argent belled or.

CONSULT

Historical Notices of the O'Meaghers of Ikerrin. J.C. O'Meagher. London. 1887.

O'Meara, O'Mara

ANCIENTLY : O'Meadhra

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Meara	33	TIP.
Mara	21	
O'Meara	31	DUB, LIM, TIP.

ORIGINS : Toomevara, (Tuaim Ui Mheadhra), of Co. Tipperary is the ancient historical center of the sept. They remain there to this day, concentrated in Tipperary.

Coat of Arms: Gules three lions passant guardant in pale per pale or and argent, a border azure charged with eight excallops argent.

Crest: A pelican vulning herself proper.

Motto: Opima Spolia.

CONSULT

O'Meehan

ANCIENTLY : O'Miadhachain

VARIANTS : O'Meighan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Meehan	121	GAL, SLI, DON, DUB, CLA.

ORIGINS : Of the same descent as the MacCarthys of southern Munster, in the 11th century they are recorded in Co. Leitirm. (See place name of Ballaghmeehin in Rossinver Parish, Co. Leitrim.)

A notable sept of Thomand in the 1300's, they were most highly concentrated in Co. Clare in Petty's Census of 1659.

Cited as chiefs in the barony of Connello, Co. Limerick along with O'Sheehan and O'Cullane. The name is also mentioned as numerous in the Mayo/Sligo area in earlier days.

Coat of Arms: Gules on a chevron argent three bucks' heads erased of the field attired or, in base a demi-lion rampant argent.

Crest: A griffin's head erased wings endorsed or.

CONSULT

O'Molloy

ANCIENTLY : O'Maolmhuaidh

VARIANTS : Mulloy

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Molloy	153	

ORIGINS : Independent Septs:

1. Co. Offaly (Kings Co.) - The chief of the name was known as Lord of Fercal, which comprised several baronies. The name is taken from O'Maolmhuaidh. (Earlier spelling was O'Mulmoy.) A branch of this sept is said to have settled in Co. Roscommon under Green Molloy. In Offaly the chief of the name was bearer of the English standard in Ireland.
2. Connacht - From the Gaelic O'Maoil Aoidh, "of St. Aedh." Other spellings of this name are Millea, Miley, Mullee.

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion rampant sable between three trefoils slipt gules.

Crest: In front of an oak tree growing out of a mount all proper a greyhound springing sable collared or.

Motto: Tearaith Atus Doth Busdh.

CONSULT

Irish Chiefs and Leaders. Rev. Paul Walsh. Chs. XV-XVII. Dublin. 1960.

The Molloy Family of Kells. J.C. Shaw. (Ir. Gen.) III. 1961.

O'Molony

ANCIENTLY : O'Maoldhomhnaigh (of servant of the Church)

VARIANTS : O'Moloney (Maloughney)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Maloney	119	LIM, CLA, TIP, WAT.
Malony	34	

ORIGINS : A Dalcassion sept of Kiltanon, by Tulla in eastern Co. Clare. They remain in Clare, Limerick, and Tipperary today.

Also of Co. Tipperary, some Maloney families in the north are actually descended from O'Maolfhachtna, also corrupted to Maloughney, MacLoughney.

Coat of Arms: Azure, on the dexter side a quiver of three arrows, on the sinister a bow erect all or.

CONSULT

O'Monahan

ANCIENTLY : O'Manachain (Manachan = monk)

VARIANTS : Monaghan, (Monks)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Monaghan	96	GAL, MAY, DUB, FER.
Monahan	42	

ORIGINS : Recorded by the Four Masters as Lords of The Three Tuathas of Co. Roscommon (1287), they were eventually replaced by the O'Hanlys.

They are descended from Manachan, a warrior in the 9th century.

The Dominican Church of Athenry, Co. Galway bears a Monahan Tomb circa 1686.

Coat of Arms: Azure a chevron between three mullets or.

Crest: A knight in complete armour resting the sinister hand on the hip and holding in the dexter a tilting spear thereon a forked pennon argent charged with an escutcheon of the Arms.

CONSULT

Monley

ANCIENTLY : Uncertain, most likely a derivation.

VARIANTS : Monnelly, Munnelly, Manley

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Monnelly	9	MAY.
Munnelly	6	MAY.
Manley	21	COR, WIC.

ORIGINS : The surname Manley is also found in Britain. The name is found mainly in Co. Mayo today. Very little other information available at present.

CONSULT

History of the County of Mayo to the Close of the 16th Century. Knox. Dublin. 1908.

O'Mooney

ANCIENTLY : O'Maonaigh

VARIANTS : Meeny, Mainey.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Mooney	136	DUB, ANT, KIN.
Meany	34	KIL, CLA.

ORIGINS : Independent septs of note:

1. O'Mooneys of Ulster - Descended from Monach, son of Ailioll Mor. The family furnished erenaghs to Shanaghan in the diocese of Raphoe, Ardara Parish.
2. Of Co. Offaly - Note the placenames of Ballymooney townlands in both Offaly and Leix. Also recorded as hereditary caretakers of St. Monahans shrine in the parish of Lemanaghan.
3. Of Co. Sligo - (Barony of Tireragh) Bearing the anglicized form of the name as Meeny. The parish of Easky bears four townlands called Ballymeeny.
4. Of the Province of Munster - Now spelled as Mainey.

Coat of Arms: Argent a holly tree eradicated vert thereon a lizard passant or, a border compony counter compony of the first and second.

CONSULT

O'Moran

ANCIENTLY : O'Morain, O'Moghrain

VARIANTS : Moarn, Moeran, Moren. Morin, Mourn, Muran.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Moran	265	MAY, DUB, GAL, ROS, LEI, KER.

ORIGINS : Irish Septs:

1. O'Morain - The chief of the name resided in Co. Mayo, close to Ballina.
2. O'Moghrain (O'Mughrain) - Of Co. Galway serving as chief in Criffon. Of Co. Roscommon, the center of the sept being the Ballintober area.

Coat of Arms: Sable three stars rayed or.

Crest: A star rayed or.

Motto: Lucent in Tenebris.

CONSULT

The Morans and the Mulveys of South Leitrim. V. Rev. Joseph McGivney. (A) 1932.

The O'Moran septs... T. Whitley Moran. (Ir. Gen).IV. 1970.

O'More, Moore

ANCIENTLY : O'Mordha (de Mora of Norman origins)

VARIANTS : More, Moir, Morey.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Moore	396	ANT, DUB, LOND, COR, KIL TYR.

ORIGINS : A common Gaelic as well as English surname, its origins are often difficult to trace. The Norman families of the name began arriving with the Anglo-Norman invasions of the 12th century in the Province of Munster.

Irish Septs:

1. Descended from Mordha (who descended from Conal Cearnach of "Red Branch" fame). - Leaders of the 7 septs of Leix, St. Finton is said to be their patron Saint.
2. According to Burkes, Landed Gentry of Ireland - 12 Families claim to be of Scotch or English origin, and one claims true Gaelic descent.
3. The Moores of Barmeath (of England) - Have resided in Ireland from the 1300's.
4. The Moore family, "Earls of Drogheda" - Settled in Ireland during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Several of the name are to be found in the Irish Brigades of France.

Coat of Arms: Vert a lion rampant or, in chief three mullets of the last.

Crest: A dexter hand lying fessways couped at the wrist holding a sword in pale pierced through three gory heads all proper.

The Family of Moore. Countess of Drogheda. Dublin. 1906.

The Genealogy of John W. Moore. Dublin. 1900.

The Moores of More Hall. Joseph Hone. London. 1939.

Sir Thomas More...The Moores of Moorehall, Co. Mayo. Martin J. Blake. (R). 1906.

Notes on an Old Pedigree of the O'More Family of Leix. Sir Edmund T. Bewley. (R) 1905.

The O'More Family of Balyna in the Co. Kildare. James More. (K) 1918-21.

CONSULT

Morgan

ANCIENTLY : Of British Origin.

VARIANTS : Morahan, Murrigan.
(Gaelic origins anglicized to the above spellings)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Morgan	132	ANT, ARM, DOW, DUB, LOU.

ORIGINS : A common name in Britain, the spelling has also been adopted by Irish families, particularly the Morahan and Murrigan septs.

A location in Ireland would be needed to speculate or research further. Quite possibly of English extraction (i.e., settlers from Britain). Also found to be of Welsh origin.

The name is common in the territory of Oriel.

Cited as a principal Norman family of Co. Cork. The name is also mentioned as an old English family who settled in Co. Wexford.

CONSULT Public Records Office, Four Courts, Belfast, Ireland.

O'Moriarty

ANCIENTLY : O'Muircheartaigh

VARIANTS : Murtagh, MacMoriarty.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Moriarty	83	KER.

ORIGINS : Of the same heritage as the O'Donoghues and O'Mahoneys of Co. Kerry, they resided in the Castlemaine Harbour area prior to the Norman invasions. Subdued by the Fitzgeralds thereafter, they remain predominantly a Co. Kerry sept to this day.

Co. Meath has a sept as well, originally of the same Gaelic spelling (O'Muircheartaigh), and they are today found with the name Murtagh. Murtagh and Murdock are names found in Ulster as well, and often of Scottish origin.

Coat of Arms: Argent an eagle displayed sable.

Crest: An arm in armour embowed holding a sword fessways entwined with a serpent all proper.

CONSULT

The O'Moriarty Family. J. King. History of Co. Kerry. Dublin. 1910.

O'Moroney

ANCIENTLY : O'Maolruanaidh

VARIANTS : Mulrooney

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Moroney	44	CLA, LIM, TIP.

ORIGINS : Several septs existed in ancient times. Those of Co. Fermanagh were chiefs before the rise of the MacGuire family in that area. The name Mulrooney still survives there, while Moroney is common to Co. Clare.

Other known locations: Galway.

Coat of Arms: Azure a chevron or between three boars' heads couped argent langued gules.

Crest: A boar's head couped argent, langued gules.

CONSULT

Morris, Fitzmaurice

ANCIENTLY : O'Muirgheasa

VARIANTS : Morrison, Morrissey, Mar'es, Morres.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Morris	115	DUB, MAY, TYR, MON.
Fitzmaurice	21	KER.

ORIGINS : Most predominantly an English or Anglo-Norman surname. Several origins are possible:

1. O'Muirgheasa (Gaelic Origin) - Anglicized as Morrissey and shortened to Morris. Co. Sligo held this sept.
2. Fitzmaurice - A Norman surname which as been anglicized to Morris. (Fitzmaurice was a branch of the Geraldine family of Co. Kerry.)

The documented coat of arms on record is that of a Norman family known originally as "de Marreis," who eventually became one of the tribes of Galway. Mares, Mareis, etc., were corruptions of the original spelling.

Coat of Arms: Or a fess dancette, in base a lion rampant sable.

Crest: A lion's head erased argent guttee de sang.

Motto: Si Deus Nobiscum Qui Contra Nos.

CONSULT

Morris of Ballybeggan and Castle Morris, Co. Kerry. Marquis of Ruvigny and Raineval. 1904.

Memoirs of My Family...Early History of the Morris Families of Tipperary, Galway and Mayo. E.M. Chapman. Frome. 1928.

Morrissey

ANCIENTLY : O'Muirgheasa

VARIANTS : Morris, Morrison.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Morrissey	90	WAT, LIM, COR.

ORIGINS : The Gaelic family of the name mentioned above, descends from Miriris, grandson of MacDermot.

MacMuirgheasa - Was the Gaelic form used by the Fitzmaurices of Co. Mayo.

English origins are possible as well.

de Marisco - A Norman family, anglicized to Morrissey.

The name is predominantly of the Province of Munster in modern times.

Other known locations: In earlier days, southern portion of Sligo Bay, Co. Sligo.

CONSULT

O'Mulcahy

ANCIENTLY : O'Maolchathaigh

VARIANTS : Mulclohy, Muckley.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Mulcahy	76	COR, LIM, WAT, TIP.

ORIGINS : A fairly rare name, possibly originating in southern Tipperary. The Mulclohy family name of Co. Sligo is often used as a synonym. Very little documentation of the name is found in the ancient Annals of Irish history.

Cahy and MacCahy are cited variants of this name as well.

O'Mulclohy, in Sligo, in the barony of Carbury was cited as chief of Cairbre (Carbury). This name is stated to have been anglicized to Stone.

CONSULT

O'Mullan

ANCIENTLY : O'Maolain

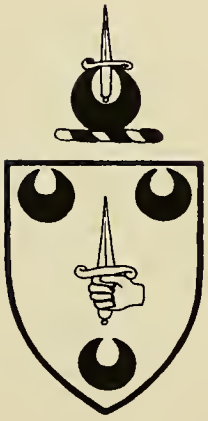
VARIANTS : Mullen, Mellan, Mullin.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Mullan	92	TYR, LON, GAL, ANT.
Mullen	72	
Mullin	53	

ORIGINS : Possible Origins:

1. Of MacMullen - Originating from Scottish settlers in the 1600's in Ulster.
2. O'Maolain - Of Irish origins, corrupted to Mullen, etc. Mullin & Mullan are found in the Province of Connaught. Mullane & Mullins, in Limerick, Cork, and Clare.
3. Of Co. Galway - Anciently recorded as descendants of Mullan who was descended from a King of Connacht.
4. Of Ulster - (Co. Tyrone & Derry) A sept (O'Mullane) recorded in the earlier 1600's as subchieftains under O'Cahane.
5. Of O'Meallain - Of Co. Tyrone has also adopted this spelling.



Well known individual of the name: John Mullan (1830-1909) - American pioneer, born of Irish born parents.

Coat of Arms: Argent a dexter hand couped at the wrist in fess gules holding a dagger in pale proper between three crescents gules.

Crest: Out of a crescent gules a dagger erect proper.

CONSULT

The O'Mullanes and Whitechurch. Sir Henry Blackall. (C) 1953.

The O'Mullanes. John T. Collins. (C) 1953.

O'Mulligan

ANCIENTLY : O'Maolagain

VARIANTS : Milligen, Milliken, Mulgan, Mullagan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Mulligan	105	DUB, MAY, MON.

ORIGINS : Chiefs of the baronies of Boylagh and Raphoe in Donegal, cited as Lords of Tir MacCarthain. The Ulster plantations of the early 1600's put their power to ruin.

In the 1659 census the name appears predominantly in Fermanagh, Monaghan, Longford, and West Meath.

The O'Mulligans (also said to have anglicized their names to Molineux) are cited as a clan in Co. Tyrone anciently.

The O'Mulligans and O'Daleys are also found in Co. Cavan as hereditary bards to the O'Reillys.

CONSULT

O'Mulvihill

ANCIENTLY : O'Maoil, Mhichil (follower of St. Michael).

VARIANTS : Melville, Mitchell.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Mulvihill	21	KER, LIM.

ORIGINS : Of the western side of the Shannon River in Co. Roscommon, in ancient times they were known as chiefs of Corca Sheachlainn (Corcachlann).

The name seems to dissappear from the early Annals of Irish history in the 12th century.

Prominent in Co. Longford in the 1659 census.

The coat of arms cited comes from a sept centered in Co. Clare at Knockanira in the late 1800's.

Doonmulvihil (now "Doon") is a placename found near Ennis and certainly predates the recorded transfer of property in 1712 by the Earl of Thomand to the Mulvihils of Knockanira in Co. Clare.

Coat of Arms: Per fess argent and gules, in chief two lions rampant combatant azure supporting a dexter hand couped at the wrist gules and in base a salmon naiant proper, in base an Irish harp or stringed argent between two battle-azes proper.

Crest: A dexter arm couped below the elbow and erect holding two battle-axes in saltire proper.

Motto: Pro Aris Et Focis.

CONSULT

O'Dugan, Topographical Poems.

Munley

ANCIENTLY : O'Maonghaile (O'Monillea - Monylla)

VARIANTS : Monley, Monnelly, Munnelly, Manley, (Monagle).

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Munnelly	6	MAY.
Monnelly	9	MAY.
Manly	21	COR, WIC.

ORIGINS : The name seems to have its roots in Co. Mayo, although Manley is found in Britain and Gaelic families may have anglicized their names and adopted that spelling at times.

It remains a Co. Mayo name to this day.

Manley is an English surname as well.

In Co. Cork, Manley and Mannelly can be found as variants of O'Mainle, another Irish sept.

CONSULT

Murnane

ANCIENTLY : O'Murnain

VARIANTS : Murnain, Murnan, Murney. Marnane, Marrinane.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Murnane	14	LIM, COR.

ORIGINS : The name is almost exclusively found in Limerick and North Cork as evidenced by the 1891 Birth Index as well as modern records. This would appear to confirm these lands as the place of origin of the name.

Stated to have originally come from the territory of Thomand, an earlier spelling was Iwarrynane, which corrupted to Warren.

CONSULT

Genealogical Office, Dulbin Castle, Dublin, Ireland.

Murphy

ANCIENTLY : Murchada (strong or superior)

VARIANTS : Murchoe, MacMurrough, Murfhy, Morphy, Murphey.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Murphy	1386	COR, DUB, WEX, WES, TYR, SLI.

ORIGINS : The great name of Murphy is the most numerous surname in all of Ireland. Several completely separate families bear this name throughout the counties of Ireland, thus helping to explain its great popularity. Murchada, a personal name of times past, is the source of the modern day surname of Murphy.

Founded by a prince of East Wexford in the 10th century named Murchada, the most prominent Murphy family is that of Leinster, with its' center in County Wexford. The chief of the name is known as the O'Morchoe. The principal residence of this family was located at Oulartleagh.

Most commonly found today in Munster (i.e., Counties Cork and Kerry) this branch of the name is often associated with the Muskerry barony of Co. Cork.

Other Murphy septs were located in Co. Tyrone and Co. Sligo, and it is the most numerous of all surnames in Co. Wexford, Co. Carlow, and Co. Armagh in Ulster.

The ancient O prefix of ancient times has been dropped entirely by present day descendents.

The Augustinian Abbey at Ferns, Co. Wexford was an ancient burial place of the Murphys.

Note the following placenames in Ireland: Ballymurphy in Co. Carlow, the "Murroughs" baronies in Co. Wexford, Ballymurphy (Ballymurchoda) in Co. Limerick, Ballymurphy in Belfast.

Coat of Arms: Quarterly argent and gules, on a fess sable between four lions rampant counterchanged three garbs or.

CONSULT

The Murphy Book. Irish Genealogical Foundation. 1981.

Irish Family Names. Ida Grehan. London. 1973.

Mac Murrough

ANCIENTLY : Murchada

VARIANTS : Murrough (MacMorrow, of seperate origins)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McMorrow	21	LEI.

ORIGINS : Dermot MacMurrough (1110-1171) was king of Leinster and primarily responsible for the coming of the Norman invasions, seaking the support of Henry II.

Art MacMurrough, a descendant, was known as "Kavanagh."

Two placenames of interest:

1. The Macamores - An area near Arklow.
2. The Murroughs - An area southeast of Enniscorthy.

The Kavanaghs, Kinsellas, O'Morchoes and Davises all share a common heritage with the grandfather of King Dermot MacMurrough, cited above.

Coat of Arms: Gules a lion rampant argent.

Other known locations: Wexford.

(See Murphy.)

CONSULT

O'Murry

ANCIENTLY : O'Muireadhaigh, MacGiolla Mhuire, Mac Muireadhaigh

VARIANTS : Murray, Kilmurray, Murrihy.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Murray	438	DUB, ANT, COR, DOW, GAL, MAY.
McMurray	19	ANT, ARM.

ORIGINS : Some septs of record:

1. O'Muireadhaigh - (O'Murry/Murray) One sept is recorded in Co. Roscommon in the barony of Athlone being centered in Ballymurry. (Per Composition Book of Connacht and works of Carew.)
2. O'Murrihie - (Murray) Of Co. Cork, barony of Carbery, centered near Ballywiddan. (Per Carew.)
3. MacMurry - (MacMorrow) Of Co. Leitrim, with the chief of the name being from Loghmoyltagh. (Per Composition Book of Connacht.)
4. MacIlmurray - (Sometimes corrupted to Murray.) Of Co. Down, barony of Castlereagh. (Also found as Gilmore.)

CONSULT Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

Nagle

ANCIENTLY : de Nogla (Of Norman origins)

VARIANTS : Neagle

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

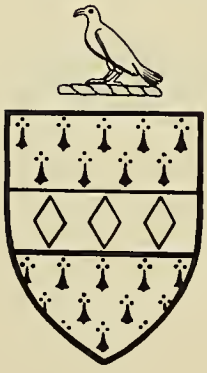
Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Nagle	39	COR.

ORIGINS : Septs:

1. de Angulos - (Nangle) Who controlled large areas of Connacht after the Norman invasions. The chief members of the family became MacCostello. In Co. Cork however, they became Nagle.

Gilbert de Angulo (Nangle) received the barony of Morgallion in Meath. His son, Jocelin, received Navan and Ardbraccan. The family came to be called the barons of Navan. These grants were made by Hugh de Lacy (under Henry II).

The name is also cited in the county or city of Dublin as a principal family.



Coat of Arms: Ermine on a fess azure three lozenges or.

Crest: A nightingale or.

CONSULT

The Nagles of Garnavilla. Basil O'Connell. (Ir. Gen.) III. 1956.

The Nagles of Fallygriffin and Nano Nagle. Basil O'Connell. (Ir. Gen) III. 1957.

The Nagles of Annakissy (Co. Cork). Basil O'Connell. (Ir. Gen.) II. 1954.

The Nagles of Mount Nagle (Co. Cork) and later of Jamestown and Dunower, Barts. Basil O'Connell. (Ir. Gen.) III. 1955.

Ballysax and the Nagle Family. Omurethi. (K) 1909-11.

Mac Nally

ANCIENTLY : Mac an Fhailghigh

VARIANTS : MacAnally, Nally.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McNally	72	ANT, ARM, MON, DUB.
McAnally	23	
Nally	20	MAY, ROS.

ORIGINS : This name is of Norman or Welsh heritage in some instances, as well as Gaelic. (According to Woulfe, in Co. Mayo.)

In Co. Mayo and Co. Roscommon the name Nally has often been found, as well as in Ulster. Pettys' 1659 Census shows Armagh and Monaghan as the most numerous counties with the Mac prefix in use.

Coat of Arms: Gules an arm in armour proper garnished or and embowed couped at the shoulder holding in the hand a battle-axe of the second between six martlets argent three and three palewise, in the centre chief point an ancient Irish crown or.

Crest: A naked arm couped at the elbow erect proper holding a dagger of the first hilt and pommel or.

CONSULT

Mac Namara

ANCIENTLY : MacConmara

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McNamara	192	CLA, LIM, MAY, DUB, COR.

ORIGINS : The 2nd most popular name of Co. Clare. The family of the name was also second only to the powerful O'Briens in order of influence in the area of Thomand.

They served as hereditary inaugurators of the O'Brien kings as well.

The Annals record them in Eastern Co. Clare as lords of Clancullen from the 11th to the 17th century. Here they split into two sub-divisions:

1. As the chiefs of West Clancullen in the barony of Bunratty, known as MacNamara Fyne.
2. As the chiefs of East Clancullen in the baronies of upper and lower Tulla, known as MacNamara Reagh. All the Catholic families of the name were suppressed by Cromwell, one family turned Protestant however and remained as landowners into modern times.

Coat of Arms: Gules a lion rampant argent, in chief two spearheads or.

CONSULT

The Pedigrees of MacConmara of...Co. Clare with some Family Reminiscenses. R.W. Twigge. 1908.

The Story of an Irish Sept. N. MacNamara. London. 1896.

Histoire d'un Sept Irlandais: Les MacNamara. Eugene Forques. Paris. 1901.

O'Naghten, Mac Naughton

ANCIENTLY : O'Neachtain

VARIANTS : Naughton, Nochtin, Knockton, Nochtin, (Norton).

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Naughton	71	GAL, MAY, ROS, CLA.

ORIGINS : Co. Roscommon and Co. Clare are the traditional centers of the family name.

1. Of Co. Clare - The family remains in the area to this day being of the same descent as the O'Quinns, north of Corofin.
2. Of Ui' Maine - The more prominent sept, anciently of the Loughrea area, settling later in the barony of Athlone, Co. Roscommon after the Norman invasions. Cited several times in the 1500's as the Chief of the Fews (barony of Athlone), they retained lands in the area into comparatively recent times.
3. MacNaughton - Of Scottish origin in Co. Antrim.

Coat of Arms: Quarterly; 1st and 4th, gules, three falcons close proper, 2nd and 3rd, vert three swords argent pommels and hilts or, one in plae point downwards the others in saltire points upwards.

Crest: A falcon close proper.

CONSULT

Gleanings in Family History from the Antrim Coast, The MacNaghtens and MacNeills. George Hill. (U) 1860.

O'Neilan

ANCIENTLY : O'Niallain

VARIANTS : Neylan (Co. Clare), Nelan, (Nilan, Niland, Nyland-Galway)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Neilan	12	GAL, ROS, SLI.
Nilan	7	
Neylon	13	CLA.

ORIGINS : Originally found in Thomand, the Composition Book of Connacht (1585) and Pettys' 1659 Census confirms their residence in the Co. Clare area.

The family is said to have built the Ballyally Castle in Co. Clare as well. Other than the predominant Clare spelling cited above, Neilan is often used throughout the Province of Connaucht.

Coat of Arms: Sable two unicorns passant in pale argent horned and hoofed or.

Crest: A dexter hand erect couped at the wrist grasping a dagger all proper.

CONSULT

O'Neill

ANCIENTLY :

VARIANTS : Nihill

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
O'Neill	407	DUB, ANT, COR, TYR.
Neill	244	ANT, COR, KER, CAR, DUB, WEX.

ORIGINS : O'Neill Septs:

1. Of Thomand - Chiefs in the barony of Bunratty. (The Nihills claim this descent as well.) The Nihills are also said to have come from Ulster after the battle of Kinsale.
2. Of Co. Carlow - Barony of Rathvilly.
3. Of the Decies - Today found in Waterford and Tipperary.
4. Of Ulster - Descended from Donell O'Neill, grandson of Niall, King of Ireland (d. 919 A.D.). A leading Gaelic family in Ulster until the late 1600's, when the Irish were put to ruin. They were of Cinel Eoghan (Co. Tyrone, Derry, and Donegal in part), forming the northern Ui Neill of Ulster, and the southern Ui Neill of Meath. A branch of the Co. Tyrone sept settled in Antrim in the 1300's. Irish history is replete with outstanding individuals of the name.

Coat of Arms: Argent two lions rampant combatant gules supporting a dexter hand couped at the wrist of the last, in chief three estoiles of the second, in base waves of the sea therein naiant a salmon all proper.

Well known individual of the name: Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953) - Actor and son of Irish born James O'Neill (1849-1920) who was of the same profession.

The Will and Family of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone. Rev. Paul Walsh. Dublin. 1930.

Irish Chiefs and Leaders. Rev. Paul Walsh. Chs XI-XII. Dublin. 1960.

The O'Neills in Spain. Micheline Walsh. Dublin. 1960.

The O'Neills of Ulster: Their History and Genealogy. Thomas Mathews. Dublin. 1907.

CONSULT

Nolan

ANCIENTLY : O'Nuallain

VARIANTS : O'Nowlan, O'Nuallain, Noland, Nolans, Houlahan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Nolan	321	DUB, WEX, CAR, WIC, KIL, KER, TIP, MAY, GAL.

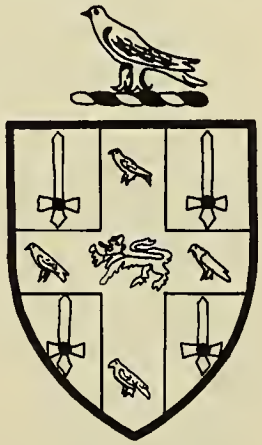
ORIGINS : The 40th most common name of Ireland.

O'Nolan was the King's marshal and chief of the barony of Forth, in Co. Carlow. They attended the innauguration of the MacMurroughs, Kings of Leinster. Still found in Carlow, this family is found in Co. Longford as well.

In Co. Roscommon and Co. Mayo, the name Holohan is said to have changed to Nolan.

In Co. Fermanagh the name springs from OhUltachain (Hultaghan).

In Co. Kerry, there is another sept of presumably independent origins which survives to this day.



CONSULT

Nugent

ANCIENTLY : de Nogent (Of Norman origins)

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Nugent	75	ARM, DUB, COR, TIP, TYR.

ORIGINS : Coming from France with the Anglo-Norman invasions in the 12th century, they received great land grants in Meath and west Meath.

The chief of the name was made Baron Delvin (taken from Delvin in Westmeath) in 1486, and later to become "Earls of Westmeath" in 1621.

In Co. Cork the chief of the name resided in Aghavarten Castle by Carrigaline.

Coat of Arms: Ermine two bars gules.

CONSULT

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

Nugent Papers. (Mount Nugent, Co. Cavan) (A.H.) XX.

Historical Sketch of the Nugent Family. J.C. Lyons. Ladestown. 1853.

Mac Nulty

ANCIENTLY : Mac an Ultaigh (Son of the Ulster man)

VARIANTS : MacAnulty, Nulty (Co. Meath)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McNulty	69	DON, MAY.
Nulty	16	MEA.

ORIGINS : Of Northwest Ulster, the O'Donnell family was the major sept to be contended with in the area.

Co. Donegal is the hereditary center of the MacNulty sept.

Well known individuals of the name: Frank Joseph MacNulty (1872-1926) - American Labor Leader. Owen MacNulty, his father, American Civil War Veteran of Co. Derry, Ireland.

As evidenced by the birth index in Co. Meath the Mac prefix has been dropped. Also common in Co. Louth, the prefix is usually retained.

CONSULT Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

O'Nunan

ANCIENTLY : Oh-Ionmhaineain (O'Nuanain - O'Hinunane)

VARIANTS : Noonan, Nunan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Noonan	83	COR, CLA, LIM, TIP.

ORIGINS : Anciently recorded as being of Duhallow in Co. Cork, several were Erenaghs in that barony, in Tullylease at St. Brendans Church.

Well known individual of the name: James Patrick Noonan (1878-1929) - American labor leader of Irish born parents who emigrated to America.

O'Hinmhuinein (O'Nunan) is also cited by O'Heerin as chief of Tuath Saxon.

CONSULT

Parnell

ANCIENTLY : Derivative of Peter

VARIANTS : Parlon

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*

ORIGINS : The first recorded "Irish" Parnell was Thomas Parnell whose son was Rev. Thomas Parnell (1679-1717), Archdeacon of Clogher. Two members of this family were at that time M.P.'s for Queen's County and the succeeding generation settled in County Wicklow in Avondale. It was here that Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891), leader of the Nationalist Party, was born.

As the lack of entry in the 1891 Birth Index shows, Parnell is a rare name in modern Ireland.

Well known individual of the name: Sir John Parnell (1744-1801) - 2nd Bart., Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer, who opposed the Union.

Other known locations: Anciently, Eongleton, Chesire, England (before coming to Ireland).

CONSULT

A Historical Sketch of Parnell and Parnells. R. Johnston. Dublin. 1888.

Phelan

ANCIENTLY : O'Faolain (O'Faoileain, O'hAolain)

VARIANTS : Whelan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Phelan	92	WAT, KIL, QUE, TIP.

ORIGINS : The chiefs of the O'Phelan sept before the Norman invasions were Princes of the Decies, settling as well in southwestern Kilkenny. the name Whelan is found in much greater numbers than Phelan, and springs from the same Irish surname. The names are interchanged even in comparatively modern times.

Phelan is found mainly in Waterford and Kilkenny and Whelan is more prominent in in Wexford and Carlow.

Well known individuals of the name: James Duval Phelan (1861-1930) Mayor of San Francisco and son of James Phelan (1824-1892) of Co. Leix.

Coat of Arms: Argent four lozenges in bend conjoined azure between two cotises of the last, on a chief gules three fleur-de-lis of the first.

Crest: A stag's head or.

CONSULT

Plunkett

ANCIENTLY : Blanchet (Of French Origins)

VARIANTS : Plunket

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Plunkett	28	DUB.

ORIGINS : Arriving with the Anglo-Norman invasions in the 12th century, the name is today taken as a purely Irish one in Ireland and abroad.

Prominent throughout Irish history since their arrival, the majority suffered persecution along with the rest of the Gaelic septs, refusing to refute the Catholic religion.

Noted as early settlers in Meath and said to be of Danish descent, the Plunkets here became "Earls of Fingal," with subsepts as "barons of Dunsany" and "Earls of Louth."

The name is also cited early in the town or county of Dublin.

Other known locations: Dublin, Meath, Louth.

Coat of Arms: Sable a bend argent, in the sinister chief a tower triple-towered of the second.

Crest: A horse passant argent.

CONSULT

The Plunkett Family of Loughcrew. Matthew O'Reilly. (Meath) I, no. 4. 1958.

The House of Louth in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. Rev. D. Maclomhair. (Louth) XVII 1966.

Plunkett Papers. (Co. Dublin) (A.H.) XXV.

The Family of Plunket. W. Lynch. 1830.

Power

ANCIENTLY : Ie Poer (Of Norman origins)

VARIANTS : Poer, Poor.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Power	272	WAT, COR, DUB, TIP, WEX, KIL, LIM.

ORIGINS : Settling in Co. Waterford with the coming of the Norman invasions, they remain most prominent in that county today. The name is regarded as that of a genuine Irish family, completely adopting the native Irish way of life.

Baron Ie Poer was one of the early Norman lords of the 13th century who occupied Connaucht, although the name does not survive there in modern times.

Cited as numerous in Waterford and Kilkenny, the baronies of Decies and Upperthird where known as Powers country.

They have also been mentioned as barons of Donisle and Curraghmore, viscounts of Decies, and Earls of Tyrone.

Coat of Arms: Argent a chief indented sable.

CONSULT

The Powers of Clashmore, Co. Waterford. Matthew Butler. (C) 1942.

An Historical Account of the Pohers, Poers and Powers. G. O'C. Redmond. Dublin. 1897.

Notes and Pedigrees relating to the Family of Poher, Poer or Power. Edmund. 17th Lord Power. Clonmel.

Prendergast

ANCIENTLY : de Prendergast (Of Anglo-Norman origins)

VARIANTS : Pender, Pendergast

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Prendergast	52	MAY, DUB, WAT.

ORIGINS : Maurice de Prendergast arrived with Strongbow during the Norman invasions and received primary land grants due to his prominent position in the same.

The family came to be centered around Waterford and southern Mayo as time passed. They are also recorded in 1598 as prominent in Waterford, Wexford and Tipperary.

The Prendergast family who fought against the pro-Irish James II (who was defeated by William of Orange) received the lands of O'Shaughnessy in Co. Galway.

Some of the name adopted the name MacMaris.

Cited as a principal Norman family in Co. Cork as well.

CONSULT

Purcell

ANCIENTLY : Puirseil (Of Norman origin)

VARIANTS : Pureill, Pursell, Purtill.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Purcell	79	KIL, DUB, TIP.

ORIGINS : The chief of the name was located near Thurles at the castle of Loughmoe. Known as the Baron of Loughmoe, a title bestowed by the First Earl of Ormond.

Arriving after the initial invasions of the Normans, they fell in with the Butler (Ormond) family.

Being both great defenders of Irish liberty and prominent in religious affairs (Bishops of Ferns and Waterford).

Cited as an early settler in the Limerick/Clare area.

Coat of Arms: Or a saltire between four boars' heads couped sable.

Crest: A cubit arm erect proper habited azure cuffed argent grasping a sword proper pommel and hilt or piercing through the jaw a boar's head couped sable vulned and distilling drops of blood.

Motto: Aut Vincam Aut Periam.

CONSULT

Family Papers Belonging to the Purcells of Loughmoe, Co. Tipperary.
Rev. St. John D. Seymour. (N) 1914.

Mac Quaid

ANCIENTLY : Mac Uaid

VARIANTS : MacQuoad

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McQuaid	28	MON, FER.
McQuade	25	ANT.

ORIGINS : A well established family of Co. Monaghan its origins have faded into the past.

Co. Limerick also bears the surname of Quade.

Said to have originated from Mac Uaid, which roughly translated means son of Wat. The Q in the name originates from the combined sound of the C in Mac, and the vowel following.

CONSULT

O'Quigley

ANCIENTLY : O'Coigligh

VARIANTS : Twigley, Cogley

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Quigley	89	LON, DUB, DON, GAL, LOU, SLI.

ORIGINS : Anciently centered in the barony of Carra, Co. Mayo, the name is widely scattered today. The name was recorded in the 1600's as prominent in Derry, Donegal, Sligo, Galway, and Louth.

Coat of Arms: Gules an orle argent, over all a bend erminois.

Crest: An estoile argent.

Motto: Celeriter.

CONSULT

Mac Quillan

ANCIENTLY : MacUighilin ? (Of Norman-Welsh origins)

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McQuillan	33	ANT, MON.

ORIGINS : Another name which came to Ireland during the Anglo-Norman invasion. The family first took root in Co. Antrim and were known as Lords of the Route with their principal residence at the Castle of Dunluce.

Known also as Princes of Dalriada, they served as High Constables of Ulster in the 1300's.

In the late 1500's they were defeated by the MacDonnell family and settled in other territories as well.

Well known individual of the name: John Hugh MacQuillan (1826-1879) - An American Quaker who pioneered in the field of Dentistry.

Coat of Arms: Gules a wolf rampant argent, a chief or.

Crest: A demi-dragon azure.

CONSULT

The Clan of the MacQuillina of Antrim. M. Webb. (U) VIII. 1860.

The MacQuillins of the Route. George Hill. (U) IX. 1861-62.

Mac Quilly

ANCIENTLY : Mac an Choiligh (son of the Cock)

VARIANTS : Cox, Cocks.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Cox	75	ROS, DUB.
Quill	10	COR.

ORIGINS : Also an English surname, Cox or Cocks is a translation of the Gaelic form of the name, which is anglicized as MacQuilly.

Originating in Co. Roscommon, the name remains there to this day. They are on record as being co-arbs of St. Barry of Kilbarry in Roscommon.

Well known individual of the name: Walter Cox (1770-1837) - Newspaper editor and gunsmith who resided in New York.

CONSULT

O'Quinlan

ANCIENTLY : O'Caoindealbhain

VARIANTS : Kindellan, Quinlevan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Quinlan	54	TIP, KER.
Quinlivan	13	CLA.

ORIGINS : Of the southern Ui Neill, descendants of Laoghaire, King of Ireland. Anciently of Co. Meath the Norman invasions greatly reduced their standing, but they managed to retain property until the defeat of James II much later in history.

The Kindellan spelling was common in Meath at that time, and this branch has become prominent in Spain thereafter.

In Co. Tipperary the name exists as Quinlan dating back several hundred years. Today it remains most prominent in that county, along with Cork, and Limerick.

The Co. Clare spelling is said to be Quinlevan.

Coat of Arms: Per pale ermine and or two lions rampant combatant between in chef a mullet surmounted of a crescent and in base a dexter hand couped at the wrist and erect all gules.

CONSULT

O'Quinn

ANCIENTLY : O'Cuinn

VARIANTS : Quin, Queen, Quenn.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Quinn	349	DUB, TYR, ANT, ROS.
Quin	58	

ORIGINS : The 20th most popular surname in Ireland being most populous in Co. Tyrone.

O'Quinn Septs:

1. Of Thomand - Being centered near Corofin, barony of Inchiquin, Co. Clare.
2. Of Co. Antrim - Where the family is traditionally linked with the Glens of Antrim.
3. Of Co. Longford - Being of the same descent as the O'Ferrals of Annaly.

In more modern times most Catholic families of the name spell it Quinn, while the most common protestant version is Quin.

Well known individuals of the name:

Niall O'Cuinn was the first to use this surname. He died at the Battle of Clontarf, repelling the Danes (1014 A.D.).

In France the family also is of note in both Bordeaux and Pax. (Note the street name Rue O'Quinn in Bordeaux).

Coat of Arms - Annaly: Vert a pegasus passant wings elevated argent, a chief or.

Coat of Arms - Thomond: Gules a hand couped below the wrist grasping a sword all proper between in chief two crescents argent and in base as many serpents erect and respecting each other tails nowed or.

Crest - Thomond: A boar's head erased and erect argent langued gules.

CONSULT

The Ulster Clans. Rev. T.H. Mullin & Rev. J.E. Mullan. Belfast. 1966.

O'Rafferty

ANCIENTLY : O'Robhartaigh (O'Raithbhearthaigh)

VARIANTS : (Raftery), Roarty

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Rafferty	54	ANT, TYR, LOU.
Raftery	25	GAL, ROS.
Rafter	20	DUB, QUE, MAY.

ORIGINS : Originally of the Donegal - Sligo area, they are recorded as co-arbs of St. Columcille in Tory Island. One of the "7 pillars of Skreen" in Co. Sligo, the sept has since dispersed throughout the country.

Raftery is a completely different surname, coming from O'Reachtaire, originally of the Province of Connaught.

Roarty, according to MacLysaght is another corruption of the name found in the northwest based upon the older Gaelic spelling of O'Robhartaigh.

Coat of Arms: Ermine and eagle displayed sable, over all a fesse or charged with 2 salmon naiant gules.

Crest: On a mount vert an eagle displayed or.

CONSULT

Mac Rannall

ANCIENTLY : MacRaghnaill

VARIANTS : Grannell, (Reynolds - an English corruption)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Reynolds	113	LEI, DUB, ANT, LOU.

ORIGINS : Anciently of southern Leitrim, they continually crossed the paths of the O'Rourkes of Breffny, pro and con in warfare. They remained influential up until the coming of the Cromwellian period, when their power was totally broken.

They are recorded a chiefs of the name Magranill of Moynish in Co. Leitrim. They are further cited in the early 1600's as MacGrannell in connection with Co. Longford and Leitrim. The later is still the strongest county in terms of the name surviving in modern times.

One family of the name occupied Lough Scur Castle and received thousands of acres in Leitrim and Roscommon as a result of the restoration and Acts of Settlement.

Coat of Arms: Vert a lion rampant between three excallops or.

Crest: On a mount a stag couchant proper.

CONSULT

Notes on the MacRannals of Leitrim and Their Country...
Rev. Joseph Meehan. C.C. (R) 1905.

Redmond

ANCIENTLY : Raymond (of Norman origins)

VARIANTS : Redmon, Redmont, Redmun, Rodman.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Redmond	79	WEX, DUB, WIC.
McRedmond	5	KIN.

ORIGINS : Receiving large land grants in Co. Wexford subsequent to the Norman invasions, they remained prominent in that county. They are also recorded in the barony of Forth, in Wexford as well.

MacRedmond is also found in Co. Mayo in the past and while of Norman origins they bear no direct relationship to the Wexford branch.

Coat of Arms: Gules a castle with two towers argent between three woolpacks or.

Crest: A beacon fired proper.

CONSULT

Military and Political Memoirs of the Redmond Family. J. Raymond. (C) 1925.

O'Regan

ANCIENTLY : O'Riagain

VARIANTS : Riagan, Reegan, Ragan, Riggan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Regan	219	COR, ROS, MAY.
O'Regan	16	COR, LIM.

ORIGINS : O'Riagain Septs of Record:

1. Of Meath and Dublin - One of the 4 Tribes of Tara, whose descendants are mainly to be found in Leix. Anciently of note in the battles against the incursions of the Danes or Vikings.
2. Of Co. Limerick - (Of Thomand) Descended from Riagan, nephew of Brian Boru, great King of Ireland.
3. Co. Cork - The name has been recorded here for several centuries and remains fairly populated with O'Regan to this day.

Coat of Arms: Or a chevron ermine between three dolphins azure.

CONSULT

Military and Political Memoirs of the Redmond Family. J. Raymond Redmond. (C) N.S. XXVII 1921.

Reid

ANCIENTLY : Mulderrig, Mulready (Of Irish origins)

VARIANTS : O'Riady, Ridd, Reede, Read, Mulderrig.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Reid	205	ANT, DUB, DOW, TYR, ARM.
Reidy	49	KER, CLA.

ORIGINS : The 81st most common surname of Ireland, the name ranks 13th in Scotland. The normal confusion arises with this surname when trying to determine its origin, due to the great number of Scottish/ British descendants of the name in Ireland, particularly in Ulster.

Mulderrig is an Irish name, which by a loose translation, (dearg = red) has been transferred to Reid.

Mulready is another Irish surname which has been shortened to form Reid or Reidy.

The name O'Reidy (O'Riada) has been recorded in Co. Tipperary where the chief of the name was titled, the "King of Aradh." Present day descendants are found in Clare and Kerry.

CONSULT

O'Reilly

ANCIENTLY : O'Raghallaigh (1014 A.D.)

VARIANTS : Reily, O'Relly, Riley, Reyley, Really, Rieley, Raly.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
O'Reilly	62	DUB.
Reilly	503	CAV, LONG, DUB, MEA, MAY.
Reilly	58	

ORIGINS : One of the 12 most numerous surnames in all of Ireland, the O'Reillys are an East Breffni sept, taking their name from "Raghallach" in the 10th century. Anciently descended from Aodh Fionn, King of Connacht in the 7th century, the family was most powerful prior to the Norman invasions in the area of Co. Cavan.

The word "Breffni" in Gaelic means "hilly" country, a name which aptly suits the area known as Breffni O'Reilly, which in 1584 was declared a county, and named its main town of Cavan. Nearby in Cavan(town), the chief of the name was located on Tullymongan Hill. Shantemon Hill, only a few miles distant, was the ancient inauguaration place of "The O'Reilly."

In the middle ages they held sway in Meath and Westmeath as well. "O'Reillys money," a currency used by the family, was outlawed in the English pale in the 15th century.

In modern times Counties Cavan and Longford remain O'Reilly country.

The patron saint of the family was "St. Maedoc."

Several other independent septs of O'Reilly exist as well as the one mentioned above. One of several cited by Woulfe is "O'Raithile," an Ulster sept of Cinel Eoghain, said to be found in Munster in modern times. These independent septs have all corrupted the spelling of the name to similar forms.

Coat of Arms: Vert two lions rampant combatant or supporting a dexter hand couped at the wrist erect and apaumee bloody proper.

The O'Reilly Book. Irish Genealogical Foundation. 1981.

The O'Reillys of Templemills, Celbridge...with a note on the History of the Clan Ui Raghallaigh in General. E. O'H. Dundrum, Co. Dublin, 1941.

The Origin of the Surname O'Reilly. Anthony Mathews. Dublin. 1970.

Poems on the O'Reillys. James Carney. Dublin. 1950.

A Genealogical History of the O'Reillys. Eoghan O'Raghallaigh & Thomas Fitzsimons. Ed. James Carney. Cavan. 1959.

CONSULT

Rice

ANCIENTLY : O'Maolcraoibhe

VARIANTS : Roice

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Rice	99	ANT, ARM, LOU, DUB.

ORIGINS : Septs of the name:

1. Of Oriel - (Co. Armagh and Louth) Of Gaelic origins. The family name is recorded as Mulcreevy as well in Co. Down.
2. Of Munster - (Limerick/Kerry) Of Welsh origins, the name was originally Rhys in their homeland. Prominent in Limerick and Kerry, they also held many civil posts in Cork and Waterford. In Kerry their area was near Dingle. Some families of the name changed the form to Creagh in Munster as well.

CONSULT Public Records Office, Four Courts, Dublin, Ireland.

O'Riordan

ANCIENTLY : O'Riordain

VARIANTS : Reardon, Rierdon, Rierdan, Reordon, Reordan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Riordan	159	COR, KER, LIM.

ORIGINS : "Followers of the Lords of Muskerry" in northwest Co. Cork, the name has spread to Kerry and Limerick. Note the placename Ballyreardon in (east) Co. Cork which points to influence in that area as well.

One branch of the family centered in Derryroe, Co. Cork, became Peers of France.

Coat of Arms: Quarterly, 1st and 4th, gules out of clouds in the sinister side a dexter arm fessways proper holding a dagger in pale argent pommel and hilt or; 2nd and 3rd, argent, a lion rampant gules against a tree in the dexter couped proper.

Crest: A fleur-de-lis gules.

One branch of the family has been cited as historians of Eile.

The O' prefix which had fallen into disuse is now quite numerous in use.

Anciently recorded in Tipperary, but at an early date migrated to Co. Cork.

Cited in Co. Cork as the O'Riordans of Muskerry, they are stated as having been military chiefs in more ancient times.

CONSULT

Robinson

ANCIENTLY : Mainly of English origins.

VARIANTS : MacRoberts, MacRubs, McCrub, Robins, Robison, Robson.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Robinson	217	ANT, DOW, DUB, ARM, TYR.
MacRoberts	9	DOW, ANT.

ORIGINS : The 12th most common surname in England, the name ranks 73 in Ireland itself. Confusion will arise when trying to establish the origin of the name in Ireland due to the above, as well as the anglicization of Irish family names to the form of Robinson.

Quite numerous in Ireland, the province of Ulster remains most populated with the name. In the vast majority of cases, the name is of English origin.

CONSULT

Roche

ANCIENTLY : de Roiste, (de la Roche - French "of the Rock")

VARIANTS : de Rupe (obsolete)

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Roche	183	COR, WEX, DUB, LIM, MAY.

ORIGINS : Arriving with the Norman invasions in the 12th century, mainly in Wexford and Cork, the name is one of the more common in Ireland today.

Roche's Country, so called after a powerful sept of the name is to be found in the area of Fermoy. Baron Fermoy was the chief of the name in that territory.

Well known individual of the name: James Jeffrey Roche (1847-1908) - Irish poet and American foreign minister to Sweden.

Coat of Arms: Gules three roaches naiant in pale argent.

Crest: On a rock proper an osprey rising argent beaked and legged or holding in the claws a roach argent.

Motto: Mon Dieu Est Ma Roche.

CONSULT

The Roches, Lords of Fermoy. Eithne Donnelly. (C) N.S. XXXVII. 1933.

The Pedigree of Sir Boyle Roche. T.Blake Butler. (Ir. Gen.) II. 1950.

Roches of Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick. T. Blake Butler. (Ir. Gen.) II. 1950.

Roche Papers. (Co. Cork) (A.H.) XV.

O'Rooney

ANCIENTLY : O'Ruanaidh

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Rooney	119	DUB, LEI, DOW, ANT, MAY.
Mulrooney	12	

ORIGINS : Originally of Co. Down, they remain an Ulster sept with members in Leitrim as well. Prominent in the religious field in the Diocese of Dromore, a long standing tradition in the field of poetry is evident as well with several "chief poets" of days gone by.

Note the placename of "Rooney's Island" in Donegal.

The Mulrooneys or Rooneys are cited as numerous in Mayo and Sligo in the Irish Annals of history.

O'Heignigh an O'Mulrooney are cited as chiefs in Oriel of Muintir Maolruanaidh and Maoith Leirg Monach.

Mulrooney is also cited along with O'Cahill and O'Moran as the Three Chiefs of Crumthan. This territory included the barony of Killian and some of Ballymoe in Co. Galway.

CONSULT

Mac Rory

ANCIENTLY : Mac Ruaidhri

VARIANTS : Rodger, Rogers (by assimilation), MacCrory, MacGrory

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McGrory	12	DON, LOND.
McCrory	34	TYR, ANT.

ORIGINS : A common surname in the 16th and 17th centuries. Many times the name was used for one generation and changed to another surname altogether with the next generation. MacRory, which denotes the "son of Rory" was then used only for Rory's son, and not for his son's descendants.

The common English name of Rodgers, or Rogers, because of its predominance, was adopted by true Gaelic families of MacRory as well.

The Gaelic family was of Co. Tyrone originally and spread into Co. Derry where they were Erenaghs of Ballynascreen in the barony of Loughinsholin. Still found in Tyrone and Leitrim, in Ulster the name is more often MacCrory or MacGrory.

CONSULT

The Past-MacRorys of Duneane, Castle-Dawson, Limavady and Belfast. R.A. MacRory. Belfast.

O'Rourke

ANCIENTLY : O'Ruadraic

VARIANTS : (Rooke?), Rorke, Roark

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Rourke	136	DUB, LEI, ROS, WEX.
O'Rourke	49	

ORIGINS : Lords of Breffny of ancient times, they remained quite powerful until the coming of the Norman invasions in the 12th century. Often found in conflict or alliance with the O'Reillys of Breffny, their territories were often intertwined. At its height it ran from Co. Sligo to Kells in Co. Meath.

With the coming of the Cromwellian invasions the fortunes of the sept declined dramatically. Several of the name became prominent in Russia and Poland thereafter.

One O'Rourke Castle was at Dromahaire, Co. Leitrim. The territory anciently covered Co. Cavan and Co. Leitrim as well.

Coat of Arms: Or two lions passant in pale sable.

Crest: Out of an ancient Irish crown or an arm in armour erect grasping a sword proper pommel and hilt of the first.

(See O'Reilly.)

CONSULT

Documents and Materials for the History of the O'Rourke Family. Danzig. 1925.

The Origin of the Surname O'Rourke. Anthony Mathews. Dublin. 1970.

Ryan, O'Mulryan

ANCIENTLY : O'Maoilriain

VARIANTS : Royan, Rouane, Ruan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Ryan	715	TIP, LIM, DUB, COR, WAT, KIL, WEX, CLA, GAL.

ORIGINS : One of the 10 most common surnames of Ireland. The name is first recorded in Owney (Owney Mulryan) in the 14th century where subsequently they became quite powerful.

Owney Mulryan was on the Limerick/Tipperary border lands and the name remains in the area down to the present.

Co. Carlow also held a Ryan sept in Leinster which descended from a King of Leinster in the 2nd century.

The chief of the name was Lord of Ui Drona (see the barony of Idrone, Co. Carlow).

Coat of Arms: Gules three griffins heads erased argent.

Crest: A griffin segreant gules holding in the sinister claw a dagger proper.

CONSULT

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

The Family of O'Mulryan in Spain. W. D. O'Ryan. (Ir. Gen.) III. 1961.

O'Ryan of Mallorca. W.D. O'Ryan. (Ir. Gen.) III. 1962.

Sarsfield

ANCIENTLY : Sairseil

VARIANTS : Archfield.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Sarsfield	11	MUNSTER

ORIGINS : Obtaining land by grant in Co. Cork around the beginning of the 14th century, the family spread to Lucan in Co. Dublin thereafter.

The Munster sept was seated at Killmallock, Co. Limerick.

"Sarsfield Rock" by Ballyneety stands as a memorial to the famous Partrick Sarsfield (1650-1693), who was indeed a national hero.

Coat of Arms: Per pale argent and gules a fleur-de-lis counterchanged.

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

CONSULT

Dr. Caulfield's Records of the Sarsfield Family of the County Cork. J.C. (C) 1915.

The Sarsfields of Co. Clare. R.W. Twigge. (N) 1914-15.

Patrick Sarsfield, Earl of Lucan with an Account of His Family... Lord Walter Fitzgerald. (K) 1903-05.

O'Scanlan

ANCIENTLY : Scannlain

VARIANTS : O'Scannell

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Scanlon	54	KER, CLA, SLI, LIM, COR.
Scanlan	42	
Scannell	42	COR, KER.

ORIGINS : Septs of Record:

1. O'Scannlain - Of Munster.
2. MacScannlain - Of Louth (Oriel).
3. Of Sligo & Donegal - O'Scannells originally.

Note the placenames of: Ballymascanlon by Dundalk, six separate Ballyscanlan's, Scanlansland and Scanlan's Island.

The name is rather widely spread into different parts of the country.

Coat of Arms: Per fess indented argent and azure three lions rampant counterchanged.

CONSULT

Scanlan of the Barony of Upper Connello, Co. Limerick. Baron de Breffny and A.E. Even. (Ir. Anc.) IV. 1972.

Scott

ANCIENTLY : (Of Scottish origins)

VARIANTS : Scot

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Scott	196	ANT, DOW, LOND, DUB.

ORIGINS : The 10th most common name of Scotland, Scott ranks 90th in Ireland itself and is generally taken to be of Scottish origin when found in Ireland.

Earlier records show the name in Fermanagh and Offaly, as well as Antrim.

CONSULT

O'Scully

ANCIENTLY : O'Scolaidhe

VARIANTS : Skally, Skelly.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Scully	65	COR, DUB, CAR, KIN.
Scally	25	ROS, WES, MEA, DUB.

ORIGINS : Anciently of Westmeath, the Norman invasions forced the bearers of the name into Co. Tipperary, and descendants to a large degree are found in Co. Cork today.

In Co. Tipperary, one branch became Erenaghs at Lorrha, of St. Ruans church. The place name "Ballyscully," across the Shannon is also of note.

In the 17th century another branch settled near Cashel, in Tipperary as well. "Scullys Cross" by the fore mentioned Rock of Cashel, marks the Scully burial ground.

Well known individual of the name: James Scully (b. 1865) - Of Co. Cork and became an American Poet.

CONSULT

O'Shanahan

ANCIENTLY : O'Seanachain

VARIANTS : Shannon

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Shanahan	65	COR, KER, TIP, LIM, WAT.
Shannon	72	ANT, CLA, ROS.

ORIGINS : Ancient chiefs of Dalcassion territory, they were of the Ui Bloid, in Co. Clare with lands running from Feakle to Bodyke. Put to ruin by the MacNamaras, they spread throughout Munster thereafter.

The name has often been shortened or anglicized to Shannon.

The name has also been anglicized to Fox. Shanahan is cited by O'Heerin as possessing the forest of Ui Rongali...and the entire country about Evlinne, which comprises the area from Feakle to Bodyke. (See Shannon.)

CONSULT

Mac Shanly

ANCIENTLY : MacSeanlaoich

VARIANTS : Shanley

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Shanley	22	LEI.

ORIGINS : Being recorded in Co. Leitrim, the chief of the name was known as "MacShanly of Dromod." A neighboring sept, the MacRannells, at length put the MacShanlys' to ruin in 1473.

Coat of Arms: Azure a lion passant or, in chief three estoiles of the last.

The meaning of the name seems to be taken from sean laoch which means old hero.

The O' prefix also appears with the name as O'Shanly, but this is likely a mistaken attempt at restoring the older Irish form of the name.

CONSULT

O'Shannon

ANCIENTLY : O'Seanain, MacGiolla t-Seanain, O'Seanachain

VARIANTS : O'Shannon, O'Shanahan, Gilshenan, Giltenan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Shannon	72	ANT, CLA, ROS.
Shanahan	65	COR, KER, TIP, LIM, WAT.

ORIGINS : Apparantly of no connection with the river of the same name, at least three separate septs gave birth to the name as follows:

1. O'Seanain - Anciently of Carlow and Wexford, but nearly extinct in those areas today.
2. MacGiolla t-Seanain - Now known as Shannon in the County Clare area, but as Giltenan elsewhere.
3. O'Seanachain (Shanahan) - Particularly in Co. Clare this name appears as Shannon today.

The 1659 census shows the area of Enniskillan, in Co. Fermanagh shows O'Seanan as a primary name.

Well known individual of the name: Wilson Shannon (1802-1877) - Governor of Ohio, U.S.A.

CONSULT

Mac Sharry

ANCIENTLY : Mac Searraigh

VARIANTS : Mac Sherry, Feley, Foley.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McSharry	29	LEI, DON, SLI.
McSherry	10	ARM.

ORIGINS :: Traditionally found in the Breffny area, centered in Co. Leitrim. The Foley spelling has been adopted in Co. Roscommon, stemming from Searrach which means foal in English.

MacSherry, an Ulster sept, is of different origins and is not to be considered the same family. The two spellings however have been interchanged.

CONSULT

O'Shaughnessy

ANCIENTLY : O'Seachnasaigh

VARIANTS : O'Shanassy, Ohoughnesey, Shoughnessy.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
O'Shaughnessy	30	LIM.
Shaughnessy	41	GAL.

ORIGINS : O'Shaughnessy's country roughly covered the diocese of Kilmacduagh, where they supplanted the O'Cahill and O'Clery families of the Ui Fiachra Aidhne territories. The barony of Kiltartan, in Galway marks their sphere of influence. Co. Limerick also holds descendants of the above mentioned Kiltartan O'Shaughnessys, settling there in the 16th century.

Coat of Arms: Vert a tower triple towered argent supported by two lions rampant combatant or.

Crest: An arm embowed the hand grasping a spear point downwards all proper.

CONSULT

O'Shaughnessy of Gort (1543-1783): Tabular Pedigree. M.J. Blake. (G) VII. 1911-12.

The Story of an Irish Property. R.S. Rait. Oxford. 1908.

Tribes and Customs of Hy Fiachra. John O'Donovan.

O'Shea

ANCIENTLY : O'Seaghdha (meaning hawk like)

VARIANTS : O'Shee, Shee (Kilkenny), Shea.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

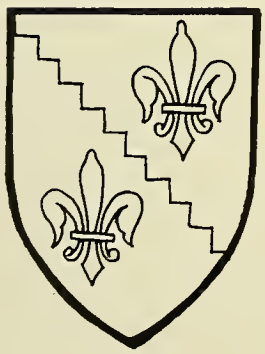
Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
O'Shea	46	COR, KER, LIM.
Shea	246	KER, COR, KIL, TIP, WAT.

ORIGINS : The name is cited as that of an "ancient Irish family" in Co. Waterford.

O'Shea is also cited as being numerous earlier in Kilkenny, and the name was changed to O'Shee there. Said to have descended from the O'Sheas of Munster.

Powerful Lords of Iveragh before the Norman invasions, their power declined thereafter, although the O'Shea population has remained into modern times. Several of the name migrated to Kilkenny.

Odeoneus O'Shee was Lord of Sheesland in Co. Tipperary in 1381.



Robert Shee was sovereign of Kilkenny City in 1499.

The O'Shees were the most influential of the 12 Tribes of Kilkenny.

Well known individuals of the name:

Sir William Shee (1804-1868) - M.P. for Kilkenny.

Several joined the Irish Brigades in France.

John Dawson Gilmary O'Shea (1824-1892) - American historian of note. His father came to the U.S.A. in 1815.

Coat of Arms: Per bend indented azure and or two fleur-de-lis counterchanged.

CONSULT

O'Sheehan

ANCIENTLY : O'Siodhachain

VARIANTS : Sheahan, Shane, Shean, Sheean, Sheen.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Sheehan	215	COR, KER, LIM,

ORIGINS : Anciently the chief of the name is recorded in lower Connello, Co. Limerick. The majority of the name come from Co. Cork and surrounding counties in modern times.

Another family of the name has been recorded as "hereditary trumpeters to O'Kelly" in Connacht, although the name is seldom found there in modern times.

Coat of Arms: Azure on a mount in base vert a dove argent holding in the beak an olive branch proper.

Crest: A dove as in the Arms.

CONSULT

Mac Sheehy

ANCIENTLY : Mac Sithigh

VARIANTS : Sheehy

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Sheehy	55	KER, LIM, COR.

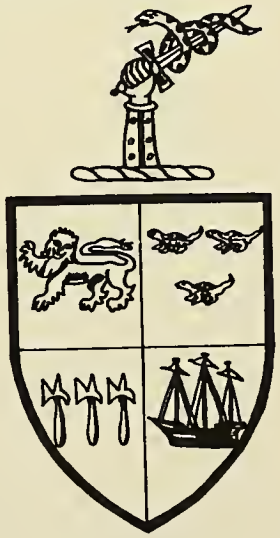
ORIGINS : One family of record settled in Rathkeale, Co. Limerick in 1420, and were in alliance with the Earl of Desmond.

In Scotland they descended from the McDonnells and served as gallowglasses in Ireland, which gives us the first record of the name in the 1300's.

In ancient records the name always has the Mac prefix, though later the Mac was often dropped. When the use of the O and Mac prefixes came into fashion again, some families began calling themselves O'Sheehy which was formally incorrect.

Coat of Arms: Quarterly, 1st, azure a lion passant guardant argent, 2nd, argent three lizards vert, 3rd, azure three pole-axes in fess or, 4th, argent a ship with three masts sable.

Crest: An arm in armour couped below the elbow and erect holding in the hand a sword, blade entwined with a serpent all proper.



CONSULT

Sheridan

ANCIENTLY : O'Sirideain

VARIANTS : Sherden, Sherdian, Sherdon, Sherden, Sherodan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Sheridan	145	CAV, DUB, MAY.

ORIGINS : Anciently of Co. Longford where they are recorded as Erenaghs of Granard, they migrated to Co. Cavan under allegiance to the O'Reillys of Breffny.

The name is mentioned as being particularly numerous in the barony of Clanmahon in Co. Cavan.

Several individuals of the name were famous for their literary achievements.

Well known individual of the name: General Philip Henry Sheridan (1831-1888) - Commander in the U.S. Civil War of Co. Cavan origins.

Coat of Arms: Or a lion rampant between three trefoils vert.

Crest: Out of a ducal coronet or a stag's head proper.

CONSULT

The Lives of the Sheridans. 2 Vols. Percy Fitzgerald. 1886.

The Sheridan Family, 1687-1867. Harold Nicolson. London. 1937.

O'Shiel

ANCIENTLY : O'Siadhail

VARIANTS : Sheil, Shields, etc.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Shiels	88	DUB, DON, LOND.
Shields	55	ANT, DOW.

ORIGINS : The O'Shiel family are of particular note due to the fact of serving as physicians in several areas of Ireland. Murtagh O'Shiel was hereditary physician to MacCoughlan (d. 1548), and this is but one example. One branch of the name settled in MacCoughlans country, centered at Ballysheil in the parish of Gillen, Co. Offaly.

The name is cited as a clan in Co. Antrim in earlier days as well.

Well known individual of the name: Senator James Shields (1806-1879) - In America and of Co. Tyrone, Ireland.

Coat of Arms: Argent a lion rampant between two dexter hands couped at the wrist erect apaumee in chief and a mullet in base all gules.

Crest: Out of a ducal coronet or an arm erect vested gules holding a sword proper.

CONSULT

Sinnott

ANCIENTLY : Not of ancient Gaelic origin.

VARIANTS : Synott, Synnott

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Sinnott	22	WEX.
Synnott	12	DUB.

ORIGINS : Not of true Gaelic origins but accepted as a name of genuine Irish heritage.

The name remains centered almost exclusively in Wexford, apart from the large cities such as Dublin.

The name is cited as one which arrived in Co. Wexford after the Norman invasions and is spoken of as one of the old English families who settled in Wexford.

CONSULT

Sinnett Genealogy. Rev. C.N. Sinnett. Concord, N.H. 1910.

Skerrett

ANCIENTLY : Of English origins.

VARIANTS : Huscared, Scared, Scaret.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties

ORIGINS : One of the 14 Tribes of Galway, the name is now fairly rare. Of English origins, they had lands in the Province of Connacht under DeBurgo. Prominent as city officials in Galway City, several are listed as mayors and sheriffs as well as Archbishop of Tuam.

Great landholders in both Galway and Clare, the name has markedly decreased there in modern times.

Cited in the areas of Ballinduff, Co. Galway and in Finvarra, Co. Clare, in earlier days.

CONSULT

Some Records of the Skerrett Family. Philip Crossle. (G) 1931-33.

Smith

ANCIENTLY : MacGowen, O'Gowan (of Irish origins)

VARIANTS : Smyth, Smythe, Smeeth, Goan, Going, McGivney, McCona.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Smith	471	ANT, CAV, DUB, KER.
Smyth	277	

ORIGINS : The most common surname of England, as well as Scotland, the name ranks 5th in Ireland itself. The exact number of the name who are of more ancient Irish extraction remains unclear. The Mac Gowans of Co. Cavan, however, are one Irish sept who adopted this English form of the name under outside pressure.

(See MacGowen for further reference)

CONSULT

Estate Papers in the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

The Chronicles of a Puritan Family in Ireland. G.N. Nutall-Smith. London. 1923.

Genealogie de l'anienne et Noble Family de Smyth de Ballyntray, Comte de Waterford en Irlande. (Date? Place?)

Stewart

ANCIENTLY : (Of Scottish origins)

VARIANTS : Steuart, Steward, Stuart.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Stewart	255	ANT, DOW, LOND, DON, TYR.

ORIGINS : The 6th most common name in Scotland as well as the 58th in rank for Ireland. Predominantly found in Ulster, the name is nearly always of Scottish origin.

Prior to the 1890 Birth Index the name is recorded as being in Limerick, Donegal, Down, and Carlow.

CONSULT

The Stewarts of Ballintoy. Rev. George Hill. (U) N.S. VI. 1900, VII. 1901.

Genealogical and Historical Sketch of the Stuarts of Castle Stuart in Ireland. Andrew G. Stuart. Edinburgh. 1954.

O'Sullivan

ANCIENTLY : Suillabhain

VARIANTS : Sulliban, Sulivan, Soolivan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Sullivan	839	COR, KER, DUB, ANT, GAL.
O'Sullivan	139	KER, COR, LIM.

ORIGINS : The O'Sullivan surname is taken from the ancient Irish personal name of "Suillabhain," meaning the one-eyed or the hawk-eyed. This family is descended from Milesius, the great king of the Celts, (or Milesians), through the Eugenien line.

The name O'Sullivan is the 3rd most numerous surname of all Ireland, and its main area of origin is in Munster. Three main branches of the Sullivan clan are as follows:

1. O'Sullivan Beara, from Co. Cork and styled as "prince of Beara."
2. O'Sullivan Mor, who possessed and were lords of Dunkerron.
3. O'Sullivan of Conc Raffan, chiefs of Knockgraffen in Co. Tipperary.

O'Sullivan country today is still principally located in Co. Cork and Co. Kerry, Ireland. The provinces of Leinster, Connaught and Ulster have O'Sullivans as well.

O'Sullivan Beara occupied the lands south of the Kenmare River with their seat at Dunboy and castles at Bantry and Carriganass. The castles of the O'Sullivan Mor included Dunkerron and Dunloe Castles, the later of which was built in the 13th century to guard the Gap of Dunloe.

Unlike many other Irish families, the Sullivans became most prominent after the Anglo Norman invasions of Ireland.

O'Sullivans of note can be found not only in Ireland, but throughout the world as well.

It should be noted that several independent septs of Sullivan have existed in addition to those listed above.

CONSULT

The O'Sullivan Book. Irish Genealogical Foundation. 1981.

Materials for a History of the Family of Sullivan...of Ardee, Ireland. T.C. Amory. Cambridge, Mass. 1893.

"The Sullivans: A Notable 19th century Kilkenny Family" Peter Smithwick. Old Kilkenny Review. XVI. 1954.

A Family Chronicle derived from the Notes and Letters selected by Lady Grey... London. 1908.

Coat of Arms - O'Sullivan: Per fess, the base per pale, in chief or a dexter hand couped at the wrist gules grasping a sword erect blade entwined with a serpent proper between two lions rampant respecting each other of the second, on the dexter base vert a stag trippant or, on the sinister base per pale argent and sable a boar passant counterchanged..

Crest - O'Sullivan: On a ducal coronet or a robin redbreast holding in the beak a sprig of laurel all proper.

Coat of Arms - O'Sullivan Beare: Per pale argent and sable, a fess between in chief a boar passant and in base another counter passant all counterchanged armed hoofed and bristled or.

Crest - O'Sullivan Beare: On a lizard vert a robin redbreast proper.

Bantry, Berehaven, and the O'Sullivan Sept. T.D. Sullivan. Dublin. 1908.

"History of the O'Sullivans" Jarlath Prendergast. Cork. IV. 1898.

Selections from the Zoilomastix of Philip O'Sullivan Beare. T.J. O'Donnell. Dublin. 1960.

The O'Sullivan Book. Irish Genealogical Foundation. Kansas City, Missouri. 1981.

Mac Sweeney

ANCIENTLY : MacSuibhne

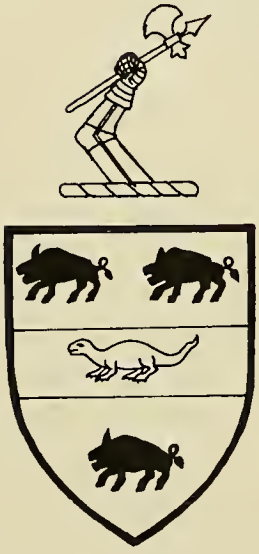
VARIANTS : Sweeny, Swiney, Sweany, etc.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Sweeney	166	COR, DON, MAY, KER.
Sweeny	82	
McSweeney	29	COR.

ORIGINS : Of ancient descent through Suibhne O'Neill, chief of the sept in Argyle. The MacSweenys subsequently formed three septs in the Donegal area (Tirconnell):

1. MacSweeny Fanad
2. MacSweeny Banagh
3. MacSweeny na dTuath, who were also known as MacSweeny of the battleaxes.



Murrough MacSweeny, grandson of Suibhne, is recorded in the 13th century as a prominent "gallowglass." The gallowglass were paid soldiers who fought for the Irish chiefs. Many of these were recruited from Scotland.

A branch of the MacSweenys settled in Munster as gallowglasses under the McCarthys (1500 A.D.). Here they held lands and castles in Muskerry, Co. Cork. The name is very numerous in this area of the country in modern times.

The name is often found in the Annals of military affairs both in Ireland and abroad.

Coat of Arms: Or on a fess vert between three boars passant sable a lizard argent.

Crest: An arm in armour embowed holding a battle-axe all proper.

Leabhar Chlainne Suibhne: An Account of the MacSweeney Families in Ireland, with Pedigree. Rev. Paul Walsh. Dublin. 1920.

Irish Chiefs and Leaders. Rev. Paul Walsh. Ch. IX. Dublin. 1960.

Sween Clan of the Battle-Axe, A Brief History of the MacSweeney (Mac Suibhne) Galloglass. R. Mingo Sweeney. Bonshaw, Prince Edward Island. 1968.

CONSULT

Taaffe

ANCIENTLY : Tath (Of Welsh origins meaning David)

VARIANTS : Taa, Taff.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Taaffe	15	

ORIGINS : Arriving in Ireland following the Anglo-Norman invasions of the 12th century, the name is of Welsh origins. They were to become an influential family in Irish affairs after initially settling in Co. Louth.

One branch of the name is traced back to Sir Nicholas Taafe, and several descendants were sheriffs of Louth. The family was centered at Ballybragan in Co. Louth with another branch having moved into Co. Sligo.

The chief of the name in Sligo was Viscount Taaffe and Earl of Carlingford.

Coat of Arms: Gules a cross argent fretty azure.

Crest: An arm in armour embowed holding in the hand a sword all proper pommel and hilt or.

Motto: In Hoc Signo Spes Mea.

CONSULT

Taaffe of Co. Lough. Rudolph Taaffe. (L) XIV. 1960.

Memoirs of the Family of Taafe. Count E.F.J. Taaffe. Vienna. 1856.

Tansey

ANCIENTLY : Mac an Tanaiste

VARIANTS :

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Tansey	13	CONNAUGHT

ORIGINS : The name is said by some to be of Norman origin (1170) and cited in Dublin, Waterford, and Cork.

(Mac) Tansey, located in Sligo and northern Co. Roscommon, is of Irish origins and this appears to be their hereditary homeland.

CONSULT

Mac Teige, Mac Teigue

ANCIENTLY : Taidgh (poet or philosopher)

VARIANTS : Teige, Tighe.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
McTighe	12	MAY.
McTague	4	CAV.
McTeague	3	DON.
Tighe	33	MAY.

ORIGINS : Teige, which was a common personal name in Ireland gave rise to the name MacTiege, used by descendants of men by that name.

Rather sporadic in use, several families appear spontaneously at a relatively late date. Not necessarily a hereditary surname, research can be quite frustrating due to a possible surname change by ancestors.

CONSULT

Thompson

ANCIENTLY :

VARIANTS : McAvish, McTavish, Tomson, Thomson.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Thompson	317	ANT, DOW, ARM, LOND, DUB, FER, LONG.

ORIGINS : The 4th most common name of neighboring Scotland and the 15 most common name in England, the name ranks 42nd in Ireland itself. The popularity of the name in these adjoining countries leads to much confusion as to family origins.

As outlined above, several families have anglicized the spelling of their name to Thompson, notably McAvish or McTavish according to the Registrar-Generals report.

The overwhelming majority of the name are of English and Scottish origins. Primarily found in the province of Ulster, when spelled as Thomson it may be likely of Scottish origin.

CONSULT

Mac Tiernan

ANCIENTLY : MacThighearnain

VARIANTS : MacTernan, Tiernan, MacKiernan

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
McKiernan	9	
Tiernan	27	LOU.

ORIGINS : Irish Septs:

1. Anciently chiefs of Tullyhunco in Co. Cavan, members of this sept are cited frequently by the Four Masters. This family descended from the O'Rourkes.
2. Another sept is found in northeastern Roscommon being descended from the grandson of Turlough Mor O'Connor, King of Ireland.

Coat of Arms: Ermine two lions passant gules.

Crest: A griffin statant gules wings erect vert.

CONSULT

The Tiernan and Other Families. Charles B. Tiernan. Baltimore. 1901.

O'Tierney

ANCIENTLY : O'Tighearnaigh

VARIANTS : Tierny

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Tierney	78	DUB, TIP, GAL.

ORIGINS : One sept of ancient record is found in Co. Mayo, where they were Lords of Carra. The surname Tiernan has been incorrectly substituted for Tierney due to the similarity in sound, though no relationship exists between the two names.

Best recognized as a Galway, Limerick, Tipperary name in more modern times, O'Tierney's Country is cited more anciently in Upper Ormond.

Cited by O'Dugan as a chief of Moy Ith (the baronies of Raphoe and Tirkeeran in Co. Derry) in more ancient times, as well.

The coat of arms cited are of the Co. Limerick sept.

Coat of Arms: Argent a chevron sable, a chief gules.

Crest: An oak tree proper.

CONSULT

The Tierneys and the Egmont Estates. M.J. Bourke. (C) 1921. XXVII.

Tobin

ANCIENTLY : de St. Aubyn (Of Aubyn in France)

VARIANTS : Tobyn.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Tobin	98	WAT, COR, TIP, LIM, DUB, KIL.

ORIGINS : Settling originally in Tipperary and Kilkenny with the coming of the Norman invasions branches of the family settled in Waterford and Cork subsequently.

The chief of the name was styled as Baron of Coursey in Co. Tipperary of medieval times.

Note the placename of Ballytobin in Co. Kilkenny.

Coat of Arms: Azure three oak leaves argent.

CONSULT

The Genealogy of Walter Tobin and His Family. Mr. Thomas Shelly. (O) 1880-83.

O'Toole

ANCIENTLY : O'Tuathail

VARIANTS : Toal, Tuhill.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
O'Toole	36	DUB, WIC, LIM.
Toole	100	DUB, GAL, MAY, WIC, KIL.
Toal	20	ARM, ANT.

ORIGINS : The O'Toole territory approximates the diocese of Glendalough. They played an important role in officiating the Abbots of that Diocese.

Constantly fighting against the foreign invaders, the list of O'Tooles in Ireland and abroad fighting against the English is extensive.

Their lands in Ireland were close to Dublin, yet well suited for defense being mountainous and wooded. From the time of the Norman invasions (12th century) to the aftermath of Cromwell (1692) they stood their ground against invaders.

Galway and Mayo counties held O'Toole families at a fairly early date. There was also a family of the name, now known as Toal in Ulster, common today in Co. Monaghan.

Coat of Arms: Gules a lion passant argent.

Crest: A boar passant proper.

CONSULT

The O'Tooles, Anciently Lords of Powerscourt. John O'Toole. Dublin.

Les O'Toole. La Reole. 1864.

History of the Clan O'Toole and Other Leinster Septs. Rev. P.L. O'Toole. Dublin. 1890.

O'Tracy

ANCIENTLY : O'Treasaigh

VARIANTS : Treacy, Tressy, Tracey.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Treacy	37	TIP, GAL.
Tracey	31	DUB.
Tracy	16	DUB.

ORIGINS : Three Irish Septs of Record:

1. Of Southeast Galway.
2. Co. Cork - Of whom a branch settled in Co. Limerick.
3. Co. Leix - Where they were Lords of Slievemargy.

Note the placenames of Ballytracy and Tracystown in Co. Wexford.

Early records also show the spellings of O'Tressy and O'Trassy.

Also an English surname. An Anglo-Irish family of the name were baronets in Co. Limerick.

Well known individuals of the name:

Nathanial Tracy (1751-1796) - Of Irish birth and backed the American Revolution.

Benjamin Franklin Tracy (1830-1915) - Secretary of the Navy. U.S.A.

CONSULT

Tracy Peerage Case. Folio. 1853.

Traynor

ANCIENTLY : MacThreinfhir

VARIANTS : Treanor, Trainor, MacCrainor

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Traynor	35	DUB.
Treanor	28	ANT, ARM, MON.
Trainor	12	TYR.

ORIGINS : This Ulster sept of Traynor carries with it the meaning of strong man or champion. It is also said to have been translated as Armstrong in English.

MacCrainor is merely a different anglicization of the same name, with the "C" from Mac carrying forward to the main stem of the name.

CONSULT

O'Trehy

ANCIENTLY : O'Troighthigh

VARIANTS : Troy, Trohy, Trehy

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Troy	31	KIN, COR, TIP.

ORIGINS : Anciently of record in Co. Clare, the sept settled in the area of Clogheen, Co. Tipperary. (Note the placename Ballytrehy.)

In Petty's 1659 census, Co. Tipperary is the main area of Trohy residence, namely in the baronies of Ikerrin and Eliogarty.

In Co. Limerick we have the placename Castletroy, as well as numerous civil officials (i.e. mayors, sheriffs) from the 12th century onward.

Coat of Arms: Azure two griffins segreant combatant or.

Crest: A tiger's head erased or.

CONSULT

Tully

ANCIENTLY : MacTuile (?)

VARIANTS : MacTully, MacAtilla.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Tully	45	GAL, DUB, CAV.

ORIGINS : The MacTully sept were hereditary physicians to the O'Connors of Connacht and the O'Reillys of Breffny.

The arms illustrated are those of the Co. Galway family.

Coat of Arms: Vert a chevron between three wolves heads erased argent.

Crest: A wolf's head couped argent.

Tully and Flood have been used as synonyms in the past, and several of the name have anglicized the spelling to Flood. The Floods of Kilkenny and elsewhere have been stated to be of Irish origins, although the name comes from England as well.

Muinter Taithligh, of Ui Laoghaire, of Lough Lir, is a name which has also altered itself to MacTully. This territory was in the barony of Lurg, by Lough Erne, towards Tyrone.

The MacTullys were also chiefs in the barony of Tullgarvey, in the parish of Drung.

CONSULT

O'Twomey

ANCIENTLY : O'Tuama

VARIANTS : Toomey

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Twomey	63	COR, KER.
Toomey	15	DUB, LIM.

ORIGINS : The name is recorded in the 1659 census as predominant in the barony of Barretts, Co. Cork.

Well known individual of the name: Sean O'Tuama (1706-1775) - Of Croom, Co. Limerick, was a distinguished Gaelic Poet.

As indicated in the birth index, Twomey is the predominant spelling in Cork and Kerry.

CONSULT

Wall

ANCIENTLY : de Valle (de Bhal) Of Norman origins.

VARIANTS : Wale

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Wall	58	DUB, WAT, COR, KIL, LIM, TIP.
Walls	11	

ORIGINS :

Blending well with the Irish lifestyle, the Walls are recognized as an Irish family today, though actually of Norman origins (1261+).

The Composition Book of Connacht cites a family of the name with a chief, and who were known as Faltagh.

The chief of the name in Co. Limerick was also denoted as An Faltach.

Faltagh is recognized as an alias in early records.

Coat of Arms: Azure a lion rampant between three crosses crosslet or.

Crest: A naked arm embowed holding a scymitar the blade guttee de sang all proper.

CONSULT

The Wall Family in Ireland 1170-1970. Hubert Gallwey. Dublin. 1970.

Walsh

ANCIENTLY : Breathnach (the Welshman)

VARIANTS : Walshe, Wellsh, Welch; Welsh.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Walsh	887	COR, MAY, WAT.
Walshe	55	GAL, DUB, WEX.
Welsh	32	ANT.

ORIGINS : The Walshes arrived with the Anglo-Norman invasions and spring from several completely distinct families. In southeast Ireland a family established itself coming from "Phillip the Welshman," who was part of the invasions in 1172 (also through his brother David). They established themselves as follows:

1. Co. Kilkenny - At Castlehowel.
2. Co. Leix - At Ballykileavan.
3. Co. Waterford - At Ballyrichmore.
4. Near Dublin - At Bray and Carrickmines.

A Co. Mayo sept (of Tirawley) claims descent from another Welshman who arrived with the invasions in 1169.

The name is the 4th most common in Ireland today.

Note the name of the "Walsh Mountains" in Kilkenny, as well as scores of others such as Walshtown, etc., throughout the country.

Coat of Arms: Argent a chevron gules between three broad arrow heads points upwards sable.

Crest: A swan pierced through the back and breast with a dart all proper.

Notes on the Norman-Welsh Family of Walsh in Ireland, France and Austria. (R.S.A.I.) LXXV. 1945.

Nota Et Synopsis Genealogiae Comitum de Walsh aut Wallis. (O) II. 1880-83.

The French Branches of the Family of Walsh. V. Hussey Walsh. (Gen.) N.S. XVII. 1900-01.

The Austrian Branches of the Family of Walsh. V. Hussey Walsh. (Gen.) N.S. XVII. 1901., XVIII. 1901.

The Family of Walsh from 1170 to 1690. J. Walsh. New York. 1925.

A Royalist Family, Irish and French (1689-1789). A.G. Murray MacGregor. Edinburgh. 1904.

CONSULT

Mac Ward

ANCIENTLY : Mac an Bhaird (son of the Bard)

VARIANTS : Ward, MacAward, Macanward

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Ward	213	DON, DUB, GAL.

ORIGINS : Although an English surname also, it is of definite Gaelic origins as well. The Gaelic family served as hereditary bards to the O'Donnells of Donegal and the O'Kellys of Ui Maine, close to Ballinasloe.

Co. Down bears a sept of English origin as well.

Note the placenames of Ballymacward in Galway and Letter-macaward in Donegal.

Cited by O'Dugan in the barony of Tiaquin in Galway. Here they were chiefs of parts of Sodhan, which was controlled by O'Manning or O'Mannin.

CONSULT

Whelan

ANCIENTLY : O'Faolain (Phelan)

VARIANTS : Whalen, Whallin, Whoulin, Whielan, Wheelon, Whallon, Whealan.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	*Births*	*Predominate Counties*
Whelan	214	DUB, WEX, WAT, TIP, CAR, QUE.
Whelehan	8	

ORIGINS : The 79th most common name of Ireland.

Irish families of this name (Whelan) were presumably originally O'Phelan. Princes of Desi upon the coming of the Anglo-Norman invasions (1169 A.D.), they soon fell from power. Their holdings in Waterford were taken by the Norman settlers, but the family name remained there, as well as in Waterford, Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Queens County.

Variant spellings of the name are quite numerous.

The original spelling of Phelan is common in the Province of Ulster. (See Phelan.)

CONSULT

White

ANCIENTLY : (Primarily of British origins) Bannon (of Irish origins)

VARIANTS : Whyte, Whight.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
White	269	ANT, COR, DUB, WEX.
Whyte	22	

ORIGINS : One of the top 100 most numerous surnames of Ireland. The majority of the name arrived from England over the years and are fairly widespread throughout the country.

Becoming prominent in Ireland near the time following the Norman invasions, the name is well documented in Clare, Limerick, Waterford, and Kilkenny Counties, among others.

Several of the name were city officials and large landholders.

Note the placename "Whyteshall," in Co. Kilkenny.

Several Irish names have been translated into White. Notably, those similar to the Irish word for white which is ban. Hence names such as Bane, or Bawn are anglicized to White.

Norman families of the name are cited as settling in Co. Cork, and as being prominant. The name is also cited as a chief family of English descent in Tipperary and Waterford. The name is cited as a chief Anglo-Norman or English family to settle in Ulster. The name is also on record in the 12th and 13th centuries as having settled in Galway, as English or Welsh settlers.

CONSULT

The History of the Family of White of Limerick. Knockcentry. J.D. White.

The Whites of Dufferin/And Their Connections. Major R.G. Berry. (U) N.S. XII, XIII.

Wilson

ANCIENTLY :

VARIANTS : Willison, Willson.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Wilson	366	ANT, ARM, DOW, TYR, DUB, LOND, FER.

ORIGINS : The 8th most common name in Scotland, and the 11th rank for England, the name ranks 26th in Ireland itself. The confusion arising from this popularity is apparent when considering the origins of the name found in Ireland. The name remains mainly in the province of Ulster, and is most likely of English origins in any given case.

Early records show Co. Antrim as a location for this surname.

CONSULT

A Brief Journal of the Life of Thomas Wilson. John Stoddart. Dublin. 1728.

Woulfe

ANCIENTLY : de Bhulbh (Le Woulf - of Norman origins)

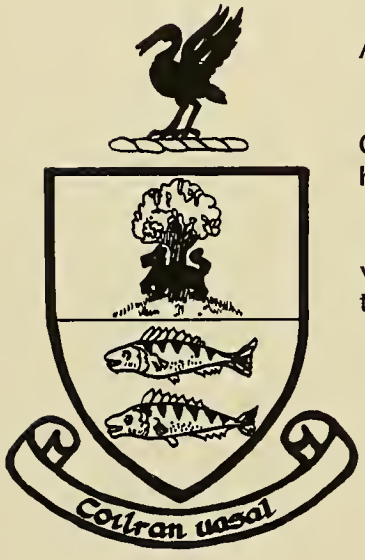
VARIANTS : Wolfe

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Woulfe	22	LIM.

ORIGINS : Two main locations follow:

1. Co. Kildare - Their lands were called Woulfe's Country and were centered near Athy.
2. Co. Limerick - They held a great amount of land in Cork and Limerick. The Wolfes of Forenaughts in Co. Kildare held land here as late as 1880 (as well as in Kildare). Records in the city of Limerick often bear the name of Woulfe.



The names arrives in Ireland with the coming of the 12th century Anglo-Norman invasions.

Ancient records also show a Gaelic sept of O'Mactire of eastern Co. Cork. In as much as Mactire was Gaelic for Wolfe, it could have been translated as such.

Coat of Arms: Per fess argent and azure, in chief on a mount vert in front of an oak tree a wolf passant both proper, in base two salmon naiant barways in pale argent.

Crest: A stork wings elevated sable.

CONSULT

The Wolfe Family of Co. Kildare. George Wolfe. (K) 1899-1902.

Wolfes of Forenaghts, Blackhall, Baronrath, Co. Kildare and Tipperary. Lt.-Col. R.T. Wolfe. Guildford. 1893.

O'Dempsey

ANCIENTLY : O'Diomasaigh (O'Dimasaigh)

VARIANTS : Demsey, Demsy, Demcy.

RECORDED BIRTHS 1890

Surname	Births	Predominate Counties
Dempsey	117	DUB, ANT, COR, WEX, KIN.

ORIGINS : Cited as "Lord of Clanmaliere," O'Dempsey was a chief in Offaley. The lands ruled over contained parts of the baronies of: Geashill and Phillipstown in Kings County, Portnehinch in Queens and Offaley, and Monasterevan in Kildare.

They inflicted great losses upon the enemy in the Norman invasions (1173 a.d.).

The main O'Dempsey castle was at Geashill, in Kings County. Other castles were to be found in the barony of Offaley in Co. Kildare, and in the barony of Portnehinch at Ballybrittas in Queens Co., to name a few.

Dermot O'Dempsey was responsible for building the Cistercian Abbey at Monasterevan.

Chiefly a sept of Leinster, as documented by the birth index. (62 Births were in that province.)

Coat of Arms: Gules a lion rampant argent, armed and langued azure between two swords points upwards of the second pommels and hilts or one in bend dexter the other in bend sinister.

CONSULT

APPENDIX

The Province

Ancient Kingdoms of Ireland. The four provinces were: (1) Ulster in the north; (2) Leinster in the east; (3) Connaught in the west; and (4) Munster in the south. The old province of Meath became incorporated into Leinster. The kingdoms of Oriel and Aileach merged with Ulster in the 17th century.

The County

The largest local administrative division of more modern times. The first 12 counties came into existence in the year 1210, and the last county (Wicklow) was formed in 1605.

The Barony

Another ancient division of Ireland based upon the great Irish families territorial holdings. A total of 325 baronies exist. They were used as a unit in the 19th Century Land Valuations. Normally composed of several parishes.

The Parish

Existing as both civil and ecclesiastical districts. The parish was the smallest administrative unit of the Catholic Church. This religious parish was a subdivision of the diocese (which were 28 in number in 1883). The civil parish was used for census and taxation purposes. Civil and religious parishes were often of different names entirely.

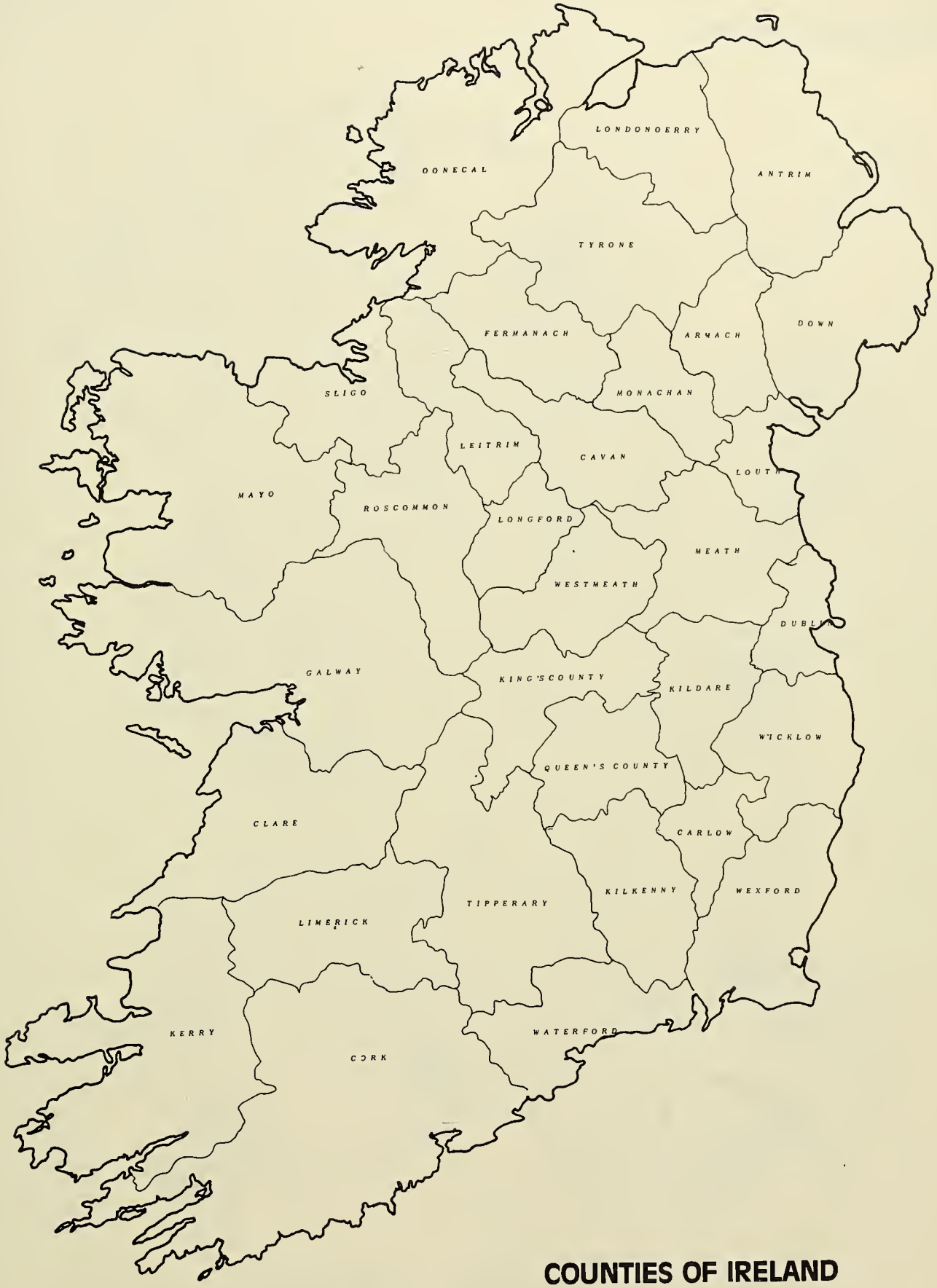
The Townland

The smallest civil district of Ireland. The words, "towne," "hamlet," and "vil" were also used to describe this 17th century geographic division. A rural subdivision of the civil parish.

Poor Law Unions

Usually comprised several townlands and came into begin as a result of the Poor Law Relief Act of 1838. Formed for taxation purposes to support the poor and destitute of the area. The "Poor House" itself was normally situated in a local market town of the area.

1. The Province – Ancient Kingdoms of Ireland. The four provinces were (1) Ulster in the north; (2) Leinster in the east; (3) Connaught in the west; and, (4) Munster in the south. The old province of Meath became incorporated into Leinster. The kingdoms of Oriel and Aileach merged with Ulster in the 17th century.



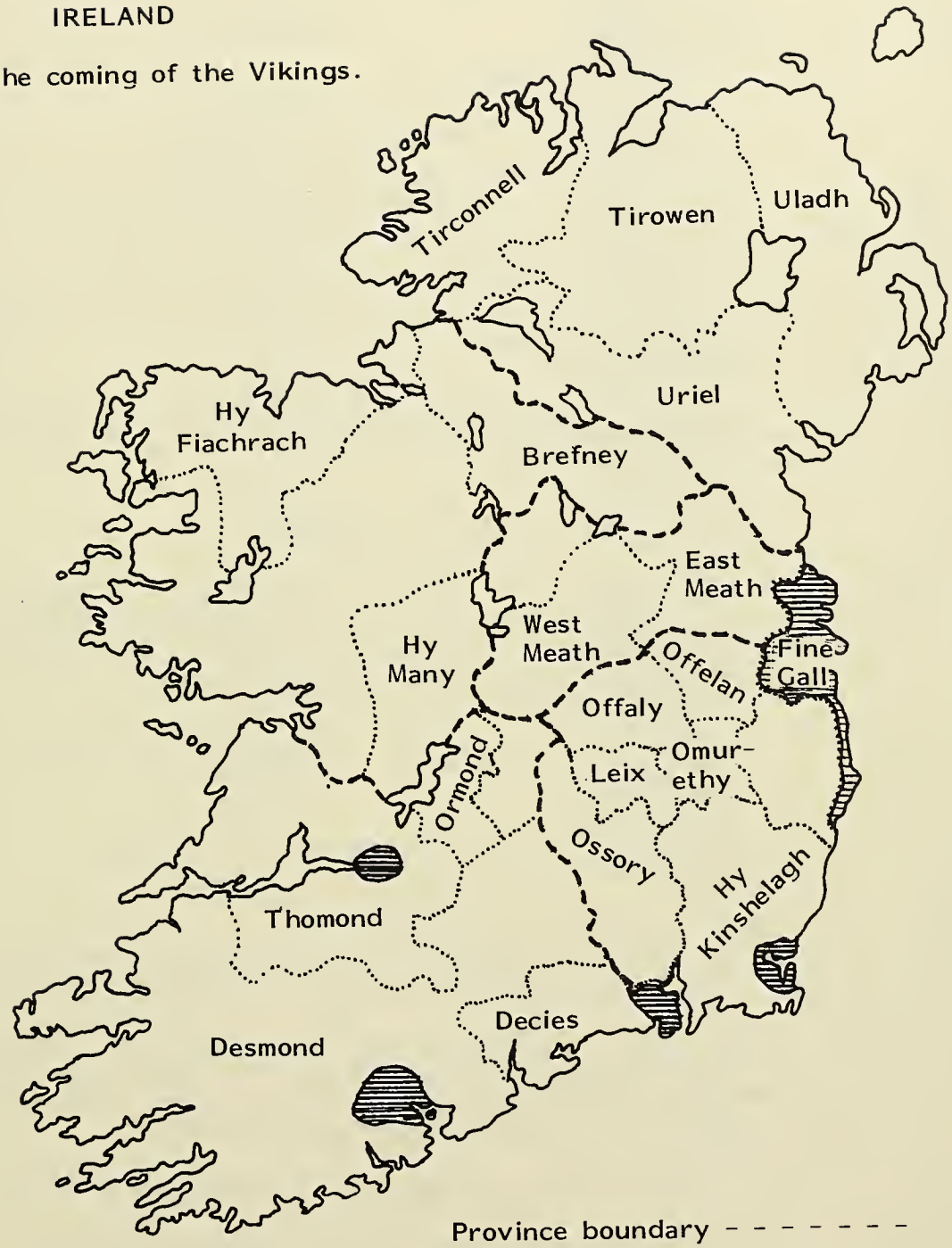
COUNTIES OF IRELAND

1. The County – The Largest local administrative divisions of more modern times. The first 12 counties came into existence in the year 1210, and the last county (Wicklow) was formed in 1605.

1. The Barony - Another ancient division of Ireland based upon the great Irish families territorial holdings. A total of 325 baronies exist. They were used as an unit in the 19th Century Land Valuations. Normally composed of several parishes.

IRELAND

Upon the coming of the Vikings.



IMPORTANT GENEALOGICAL DATES

Taken from, *The Complete Book for Tracing Your Irish Ancestors.*

738 B.C.	- The Firbolgs (Bow Men).
636 B.C.	- The Dedannan.
504 B.C.	- The Celts (Milesians),
389 A.D.	- The Coming of St. Patrick and Christianity.
774 A.D.	- The Vikings (Danes) invade the coast lines.
10th Century	- Surnames come into use around the reign of Brian Boru.
1169 A.D.	- The Anglo-Normans invade, coming from Britain.
1550-1603	- Scottish settlements in Ulster. (Tudor Plantations, 1556-1586.)
1572	- French Huguenots fled religious persecution from 1525 into the 1600's. Many arrived from Switzerland and Holland as well.
1607	- The flight of the "Earls" of Ireland.
1609-1622	- Plantations of King James the I. Thousands of Irish join armies on the continent. The 1st Presbyterian settlements from Scotland. Half of Northern Ireland's Protestants are descendants of Scottish Presbyterians who were planted by King James I.
1616	- The "Annals of the 4 Masters" compilation of ancient Irish history.
1640	- Cromwell arrives with 17,000 puritan soldiers.
1650"s	- Land is granted to Cromwell's men.
1651	- 30,000 Irish soldiers given leave to France and Spain. Thousands transported as slaves to the West Indies.
Late 1600,s	- Under William of Orange, Dutch, German, and French Huguenot troops battle on Irish soil. 20% of the population (Protestant) own 86% of Ireland. Substantial emigration begins to North America, etc.
1691	- 15,000 Irish sail to France to form the Irish Brigades.
1718-1775	- Over 200,000 Scotch-Irish (Ulster Presbyterians) sail to the U.S.A. Many settled on the Appalachian frontier, they eventually played a prominent part in the American Revolution.
1845-1852	- The Great Potatoe Famine. Over 1 million leave the country.

THE MOST POPULOUS SURNAMES OF IRELAND (1890)

Murphy
Kelly
Sullivan
Walsh
Smith
O'Brien
Byrne
Ryan
Connor
Donaghue
O'Neill
Reilly
Doyle
McCarthy
Gallagher
Doherty
Kennedy
Lynch
Murray
Quinn
Stewart
Casey
Foley
Fitzpatrick
Leary
McDonnell
McMahon
Donnelly
Regan
Burns
Flanagan
Mullan
Barry

Kane
Moore
McLoughlin
Carroll
Connolly
Daly
Connell
Wilson
Dunne
Brennan
Burke
Collins
Campbell
Clark
Johnson
Hughes
Farrell
Fitzgerald
Brown
Martin
Robinson
Cunningham
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Kenny
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Lyons
Reid
Graham
Higgins
Mullen
Keane

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Maguire
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Flynn
Thompson
Callaghan
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Duffy
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White
Sweeny
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Kavanagh
Power
McGrath
Moran
Brady
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*please disregard the 'O' and 'Mac' prefix before any names (i.e. O'Grady = Grady).

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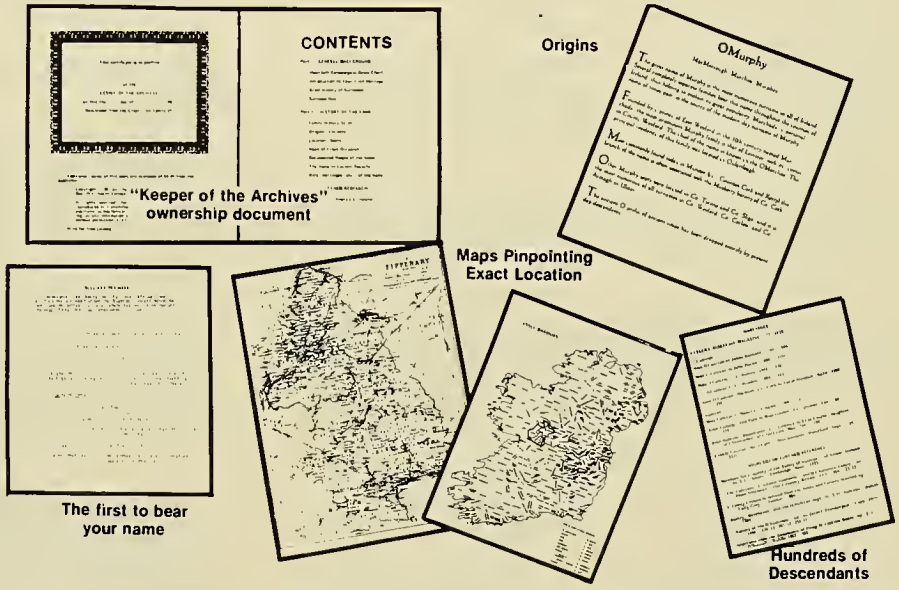

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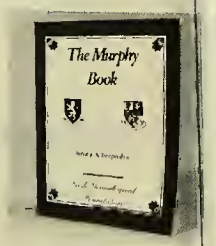

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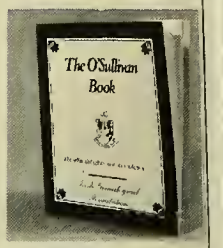

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